MONDAY
March 10, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
20 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 58

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

CIVILIAN DEATHS

J&K L-G orders probe into killings in Kathua

NEWS » PAGE 12

ONGOING OPERATION

One body recovered from tunnel in Telangana

SOUTH » PAGE 9

PASSENGER'S PLIGHT

DGCA seeks report from Air India

NEWS » PAGE 12

DATA POINT

Manufacturing semiconductor chips locally

India aims at reducing its import dependence

OPINION » PAGE 11

CAUSING A FLUTTER

Getafe shocks Atletico as Arambarri strikes

SPORT » PAGE 20

Gutsy India edges past New Zealand to claim ICC Champions Trophy

Mission accomplished: K.L. Rahul and Ravindra Jadeja celebrate after securing India's triumph in Dubai on Sunday. AFP

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

They came, they stayed, they conquered!

India entered the ICC Champions Trophy as firm favourite and in a nail-biting final, the Men in Blue held their nerve to edge past New Zealand by four wickets with an over to spare at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 252, skipper Rohit Sharma led from the front with a sparkling 76 to get his side off to a blazing start. Rohit and his deputy Shubman Gill stitched a 105-run opening partnership to put India in cruise control.

The spunky Kiwis, though, staged a remarkable comeback through their spinners, chipping away with wickets at regular intervals and keeping the contest alive.

The atmosphere inside the stadium, bathed in a sea of blue, was tense as India neared the finish line. Every run was vociferously cheered while every dismissal was met with deadly silence. However, middle-order batters Shreyas Iyer and K.L. Rahul showed composure in the face of intense pressure to fetch India a record third Champions Trophy.

MORE REPORTS ON
» PAGE 17

Protests continue in Manipur, women block vital highway

Kangpokpi and Churachandpur districts affected as Kuki-Zo people protest against free movement plan; State Budget to be tabled today

Vijaita Singh
KANGPOKPI

Women protesters blocked National Highway no. 2 in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Sunday, a day after the area witnessed clashes between security forces and the Kuki-Zo people that left one person dead.

A shutdown observed in the hill district of Churachandpur too affected the movement of vehicles. An indefinite shutdown was called by civil society groups in all Kuki-Zo areas.

The developments are being closely watched with Union Home Minister Amit Shah scheduled to table the proclamation of President's Rule in Manipur in Parliament on Monday, when the House reconvenes for the second leg of the Budget Session. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman will place Manipur's Budget.

Violence was reported for the first time since the February 13 imposition of President's Rule on Saturday over the enforcement of free movement of all vehicles through National Highways no. 2 and 37. The highways are critical for supply of essentials and other commodities.

Hurdles remain: Protesters block NH-2 in Kangpokpi of Manipur a day after violence was reported from the area. VIJAITA SINGH

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

Dhankhar 'stable' at AIIMS after chest pain

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar was admitted to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences here after he complained of chest pain and uneasiness on Sunday morning.

"He is stable and under observation," an AIIMS source said. A group of doctors are monitoring his condition.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in a social media post after visiting Mr. Dhankhar in the cardiac department at AIIMS, said he is praying for the "good health and speedy recovery" of the Vice-President.

Mr. Dhankhar has been admitted to the critical care unit under Dr. Rajiv Narang, Head of the Department of Cardiology.

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 2

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR

Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board

Inauguration of

MOBILE MEDICAL UNITS

Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Government of Karnataka

Sri Santosh S Lad, Hon'ble Minister for Labour and Chairman of the Board participated in the Departmental programme.

Date: Monday, 10.03.2025. Time: 10.00 A M
Place: Vidhana Soudha East Gate, Bengaluru

ALL ARE WELCOME

Dr. Shalini Rajneesh, IAS
Chief Secretary to Government
Government of Karnataka

Dr N V Prasad, IAS
Secretary to Government
Department of Labour

Smt Bharathi D, IAS
Chief Executive Officer and Secretary,
Karnataka Building and Other Construction
Workers Welfare Board

Dr H N Gopalakrishna, IAS
Commissioner
Department of Labour

Important Achievements of the Board in the last two years

- 5.08 lakh construction workers have been registered as beneficiaries
- 32.05 Lakh beneficiaries have been given financial assistance
- The Total Amount of benefits given to registered construction workers is Rs. 1744 crores
- Rs. 2241 crores cess has been collected

To cherish and follow the noble ideals which inspired our national struggle for freedom;
As is enshrined in our Constitution,is the fundamental duty of every citizen of the country.

" Shrama Meva Jayathe"

Impeccable defence, impenetrable home and an idealistic Molina: the foundations of Bagan's supremacy

The Super Giant's dominant campaign has seen it become the first team to win the League Shield in consecutive seasons; the team's defence-first approach made it the team to beat, and only twice did it succumb to defeats. It also crossed several milestones and broke records

PTI

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Mohun Bagan Super Giant, on the back of one of the most dominant performances in the recent history of Indian football, sealed its place on top of the Indian Super League (ISL) table for the second season in a row. In doing so, it became the first team to successfully defend the League Shield, a title that came into existence in 2019-20.

While Mumbai City FC became the first team to win multiple League Shields (2019-20 and 2022-23), it had not achieved that feat in consecutive seasons. MBSG, incidentally, became the first team to breach the 50-point mark in ISL history following its narrow 1-0 win against Odisha FC on home turf. MBSG's 16th victory of the season, the most by any team in ISL history, saw it reach the 52-point mark from 22 matches. The Mariners ended the league stage with 56 points from 24 games.

"To win a trophy, you need to be a team. It is not about having 11 players but a group of players. A title is realised when everybody is working in the same direction. The support of the owner (Sanjiv Goenka) and management is really important, as are the contributions of the coaching staff, the supporting staff, and, of course, the quality and the hard work of the players," MBSG head coach Jose Francisco Molina said.

The Shield win was extra special for Molina, who became the only coach in ISL history to triumph with every team he has managed. In 2016, he led ATK, a team that was dissolved in 2020 and merged with Mohun Bagan FC, to the top of the table, when it was the only team to represent Kolkata and the league had just eight teams.

Big shoes, high expectations

On his return to the country after eight years, the Spaniard was given the responsibility of shepherding the legacy of the oldest club in Asia in a tournament that had now expanded to 13 teams. Additionally, Kolkata now has three teams competing in the ISL, following the inclusion of East Bengal FC and Mohammedan Sporting SC, reestablishing the City of Joy's importance in the country's football pyramid.

When MBSG hired Molina in the summer, he had big shoes to fill as the club had parted ways with his predecessor and compatriot Antonio Lopez Habas despite him helping the team win the ISL Shield. Now, having exceeded expectations, the 54-year-old, who had served as the sporting director of the Royal Spanish Football Federation following his stint with ATK, expressed delight at all the hard work bearing fruit.

"Every title for us as a player and as a coach is special. You start with dreams at the beginning of the season and it feels really happy when your plans and hard work bring the results at the end of it. Our goal is to make the fans happy and today they are the happiest fans in the world. I am happy for all the support they have given us through the league."

When he took charge of the club, Molina decided to realign his resources while bringing his international expertise to good use. He decided to build the team's style on a strong defence. After a few initial hiccups, MBSG soon adapted to the demands of the coach and slowly emerged as the team to beat.

Records tumble

There were some grumbles among fans initially after the focus shifted from being spectacular to efficiency, taking away the flair from MBSG's performances. However, in the end, it has paid dividends. MBSG has registered 15 clean sheets, the most in the league, and has conceded just 16 goals in 24 matches, the fewest among all teams.

In the process, Vishal Kaith reached the milestone of 50 clean sheets in the ISL, making him the first goalkeeper in the league's history to reach the landmark number. Additionally, MBSG has not let in a goal in 570 minutes, the longest any team has ever gone without conceding in the ISL, which eventually ended when it was held to a 2-2 by Mumbai City FC.

"You need to have everything good to be a good team. And that is what we were trying to do from the beginning. Trying to be good in attack and defence, trying to do good transitions, trying to have good set pieces, trying to be as good as possible," Molina explained.

The defensive solidity has also helped MBSG slowly build a potent attack, which has netted 47 goals so far, the most by any team this season.

MBSG's impressive run this year has been built on being unbeaten at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (Salt Lake Stadium). It has won 11 of its 12 home matches, with the other being a draw at the start of the season.

Molina's call for all-round brilliance was answered by his players, with there being contributions from all areas of the pitch. While the team's attack – comprising the likes of Jamie Maclaren, Jason Cummings, Liston Colaco and Manvir Singh – stuck to its job, the defensive unit of Alberto Rodriguez, Tom Aldred, Subhasish Bose, Dipendu Biswas, and Asish Rai has also been lethal offensively, scoring 14 goals so far. Captain Subhasish Bose has scored six goals this season, breaking Mourtada Fall's record of most goals (five for FC Goa) in an ISL season by a defender.

"This triumph is a tribute to the way our coach Molina has harnessed the team into a winning unit, and a tribute to the hard work put on by the players, the captain, and each of the support staff. This victory is dedicated to every fan of our club," MBSG principal owner Goenka remarked.

The club will now look to extend its dominance by going the distance and clinching the ISL Cup, which will only further cement this campaign as one of the finest in ISL history.

THE GIST

- Despite Habas winning the League Shield last season, Mohun Bagan decided to part ways with him and appoint Molina, a move that was initially met with scepticism
- Molina's decision to focus on the team's defensive strengths caused grumbles among the supporters, as it led to the team's flair being curtailed
- However, when the players finally grasped the tactics and began to click, it became evident that MBSG was building something special
- The team set several records en route to the top of the table: most home wins in a season, most minutes without conceding a goal, and most number of points
- Having made its way to the playoffs, the club will now look to go the distance by clinching the ISL Cup as well

EDUCATIONPLUS

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Mukul Saxena

A multi-dimensional approach

The higher education curriculum requires a new framework that integrates knowledge, cognition and social knowledge to make students future ready

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Challenges in higher education are becoming increasingly nuanced and complex. Technological innovations, shifting human-machine frontiers, and advances in AI, Healthcare, and Medicine are emerging as key focus areas. The World Economic Forum's *Future of Jobs Report 2023* highlights that 44% of workers' skills will be disrupted by 2027. Analytical and creative thinking will be crucial skills in the next five years, closely followed by leadership, social influence, resilience, flexibility, and agility.

Possible approaches

The future of higher education lies in the fine integration of these skill sets. The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) emphasises a principles-based and outcomes-focused approach and underscores the need for experiential learning, social impact, career readiness, and partnerships. Similarly, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology emphasises skill competency while ensuring that academic programmes meet high-quality standards aligned with industry needs. The National Board of Accreditation in India focuses on achieving desirable outcomes in knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviour, based on an 'Input-Process-Output' model. Additionally, the National Educational Policy (NEP) 2020 emphasises knowledge, skills, values, and dispositions that support responsible commitment to human rights, sustainable development, and global well-being.

The question now is whether Indian higher education institutions (HEIs) are equipping students with these skills, or still fixated on teaching them to remember and understand subjects through a taxonomical design, such as Bloom's Taxonomy? The answer, unfortunately, is a resounding "Yes", with some exceptions.

How can we prepare students to be future ready? Competency-based education (CBE) and outcome-based education (OBE) are two dominant approaches to assess student learning. OBE emphasises mastery of specific skills and competencies that reflect real-world experiences, while CBE aligns educational outcomes with the labour market needs, increases employability, and fosters industry connections. Unfortunately, both often focus on discipline-centric skills and overlook discipline-neutral ones. Consequently, HEIs assess educational relevance by emphasising multidisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity as educational outcomes. While CBE advocates for a transformative approach, there remains a transactional focus.

The skill gaps in higher education are particularly pronounced in the technology sector. A high rate of graduate unemployment due to a mismatch between the skills taught in colleges/universities and those needed by industry has led to poor job performance and employer dissatisfaction, particularly in areas such as writing, editing, research, and data analysis.

Three-step assessment

These challenges can be addressed by a new framework that effectively integrates knowledge, cognition, and social inquiry into the educational curriculum, focusing on skill development and social orientation. It positions students as key stakeholders alongside parents, industry representatives, and faculty and emphasises social orientation and skills competency by integrating OBE and CBE, promoting a multidimensional approach to learning. It enables students to develop higher-order skills, enhance their capacity for social inquiry, and refine and sharpen their competencies throughout their academic journey.

Not only does it formally integrate social inquiry into educational design but also strengthens skills and competency courses while establishing a robust, communicative, and engaging framework. This allows for mapping students' skills and social orientation through a well-defined mentoring process, including corporate mentoring in subsequent stages. The framework involves a three-stage assessment:

Stage I: Initial assessment of student skills during the orientation programme and/or at the start of classes. Students participate in the Learners Value Proposition (LVP), which, while not mandatory, facilitates skills mapping. Once the results are analysed, they are aligned with the programme's mission and objectives, creating a case file for each student.

Stage II: Assigned mentors conduct continuous assessment at the end of each semester and implement the necessary intervention for skill development through electives and participation in activities or field projects. Corporate mentorship and parental feedback can be integrated aiding in competency mapping and social orientation for internships.

Stage III: The final assessment compiles a comprehensive student profile, which maps skills competency in alignment with future job requirements and upskilling needs.

Higher education must prepare students to be future flag-bearers who will tackle complex global problems. The World Bank's latest report on poverty reveals that 8.5% of the world's population still lives on less than $2.15 a day. The critical question remains: are we adequately preparing our future problem-solvers with the relevant skills, knowledge, and competencies?

The writer is Professor and Director, Centre for Postgraduate and Legal Studies, and Centre of Excellence in Public Policy, Alliance School of Law.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sightsavers India Fellowship Programme
An initiative offered by Sightsavers India
Eligibility: Students with a PG degree or diploma in Ophthalmology from a recognised institute in India who possess a strong foundation in Clinical Ophthalmology and demonstrate a strong commitment to lifelong learning, adaptability, professional ethics, and emotional resilience
Rewards: ₹75,000 monthly + benefits
Application: Online
Deadline: March 31
http://www.b4s.in/edge/SIFS1

The Sonny Mehta India Scholarship
Offered by the Department of Literature, Drama and Creative Writing at the University of East Anglia (UEA), the U.K.
Eligibility: Indian national residing in India who has been accepted for a full-time M.A. in Creative Writing
Rewards: £28,500 + maintenance fees.
Application: Online
Deadline: April 1
http://www.b4s.in/edge/SOIS4

The Doon School Scholarship Examination (DSSE)
Annual entrance exam conducted by the Doon School, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Eligibility: Indian boys between 11 and 13 years on September 30, 2025 who have been promoted to Class 7 or Class 8 in the 2025-26 academic year
Rewards: Financial assistance to study at the Doon School
Application:
admissions@doonschool.com
Deadline: April 15
www.b4s.in/edge/DSSE2

Courtesy: buddy4study.com

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

Assess your strengths

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

I am a UPSC aspirant from Chennai. I have a degree in History and am doing a distance PG from Madras University. I am not interested in teaching but am into research-based work. What can I do if I don't clear the exam? Mathes

Dear Mathes,

You could consider archival and museum work. Chennai has numerous archives, including the Tamil Nadu Archives and the Madras Record Office that preserve historical documents. You can work as an archivist, researcher, or document manager or pursue a career in museum curation, research, or education or be a research assistant at institutions focusing on history, culture, and social sciences or work in heritage management and conservation. Content creation and journalism are also options to create engaging and informative content. Another option is to do an M.Phil or Ph.D. in History.

Connect with professionals for insights and job opportunities. Develop skills relevant to your chosen field, such as research methodologies, data analysis, writing, and communication. Also, look for internships or volunteer opportunities in archives, museums, or research institutions to gain practical experience.

I am doing a B.Com (Hons.) and want to study abroad. I am from a middle-class family. How can I get scholarships or financial aid? Also which course would be better: M.Com or MBA? Ayush

Dear Ayush,

Research scholarships are offered by the host country's government or Indian government schemes. Universities have scholarships for international students based on academic merit, financial need, or specific programmes. Check the websites of the universities that you are interested. Numerous organisations and foundations also offer external scholarships for international students. You will need to research these thoroughly. Some universities offer financial aid packages that combine scholarships with grants based on financial need. You can also take a student loan to cover tuition and living expenses, but check the repayment terms before committing.

Maintain excellent grades and hold a strong academic record, as that will significantly increase your chances of receiving scholarships and other financial aid. Many universities require a GMAT (MBA) or GRE (M.Com/other programmes) score as a prerequisite. So, practise and aim for high scores to improve your application. Strong essays highlighting your ambitions, financial need, and reasons for choosing that university and programme will also help.

Both M.Com and MBA are good options;, the choice depends on your interest and career goals. M.Com would be ideal for a career in accounting, finance, or research. An MBA is a broader option suitable for various business careers, including management consulting, marketing, finance, or entrepreneurship.

Shortlist the course and the college first, the country and the living expenses next and then write to the admissions office with your requirement(s).

I have a PG in Maths and a B.Ed. I want to do a Ph.D. but am not sure how to choose my research subject, as I don't have anyone to guide me. Abhishek

Dear Abhishek,

Review your M.Sc. coursework and explore your interests. What did you like most during your M.Sc.? Do you have any shortlisted topics that you thoroughly enjoy researching? Explore different areas of Maths through online resources, textbooks, and research papers. Platforms like arXiv (arxiv.org/archive/math) offer a vast collection of Maths research papers. Once you have a general area of interest, look for research gaps and delve deeper to identify questions that haven't been fully addressed or problems remain unsolved.

Reach out to professors from a university whose research aligns with your interests. Go back to your college and meet your professors to discuss potential research topics and request their mentorship. Explore if you can join their research group. This can provide you with valuable guidance and maybe also a guide. Many universities also have dedicated Ph.D. programme pages outlining potential research areas within their Maths department. Check that out as well. Online forums and communities like MathOverflow (https://mathoverflow.net/) can be a great source of information and discussion. You can post questions or browse existing threads related to research areas that pique your interest.

I am in the third semester of graduation. From childhood, I dreamt of the UPSC and never really thought of what interested me or what my career options were. I now understand how tough the UPSC is and how most aspirants have a Plan B. Should I do an MBA, as that may be easier? Ayushman

Dear Ayushman,

Choosing a career in Civil Services or an MBA solely on the perceived difficulty of the qualifying exam is not an effective approach for a lifelong career. Identify what you enjoy doing. UPSC will lead to roles involving public administration, policy implementation, and serving the nation. An MBA will lead to managerial roles in various industries. Take time to reflect on your core interests, values, and career aspirations. Try to gain some exposure to both public service and business through internships, volunteer work, or online courses. Don't compare the difficulty of UPSC and CAT, as both require dedicated preparation and use different skill sets. Focus on which one aligns with your interests and strengths. Meet a career counsellor to understand this better. If you end up liking both, you could choose to specialise in public policy or social entrepreneurship during your MBA. You could also work in the corporate social responsibility (CSR) sector to bridge the gap between business and public service. Take time to assess your strengths and weaknesses, overall personality and finally make an informed choice.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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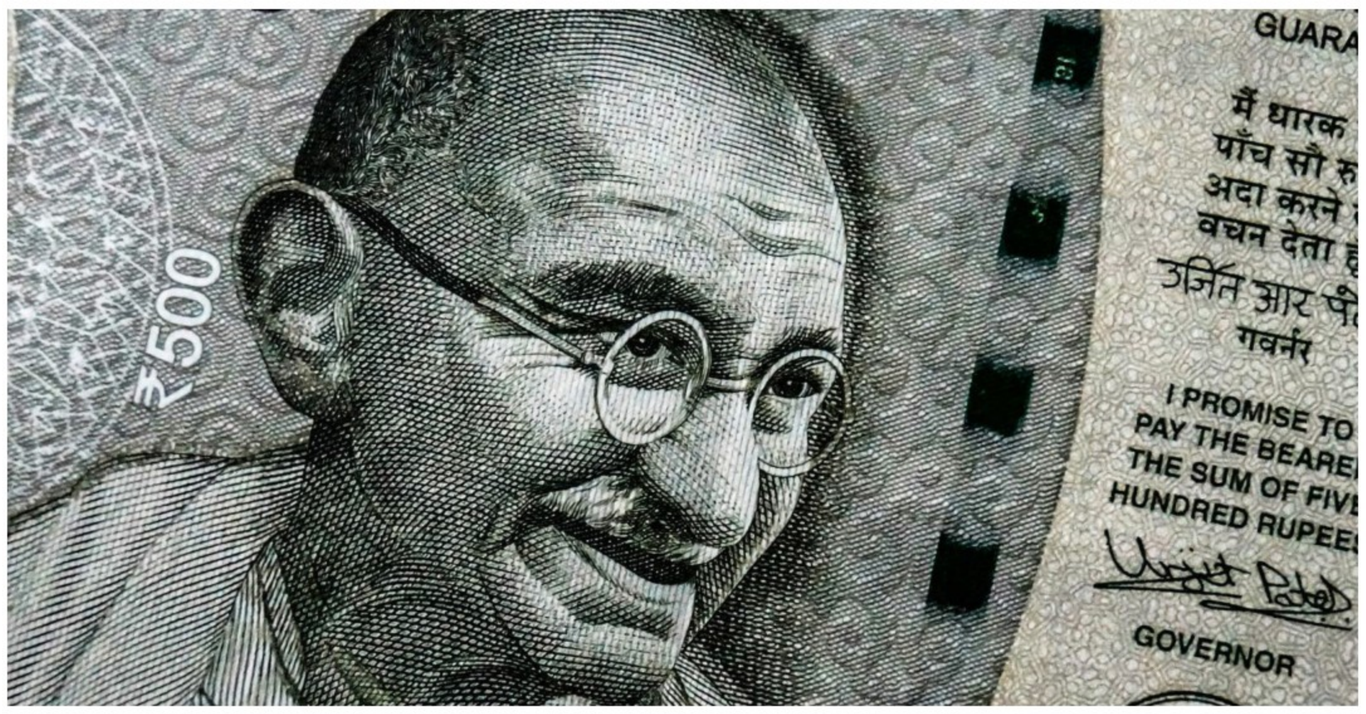
Indian team makes doubly secure ink to thwart counterfeiting

Scientists from INST Mohali and BARC Mumbai have made an ink using strontium bismuth fluoride nanoparticles. While existing fluorescent inks are visible only under ultraviolet light or infrared light but not both, the scientists said their ink fluoresces in light from both parts of the spectrum, making it more secure

Unnati Ashar

Governments and financial institutions take painstaking efforts to consolidate banknotes, cheques, and passports with a variety of security features to protect them from counterfeiting. Yet ever so often a counterfeiter emerges who can recreate these features and pass off fake documents as real ones. In response, institutions constantly develop newer and better components that are even harder to falsify.

Now, scientists from India have come up with an ink they say can make counterfeiters' jobs harder.



A close-up view of a 500-rupee note showing the security thread feature in the form of a series of polygons running the note's breadth. ISHANT MISHRA/UNSPLASH

Security printing

Counterfeiting is a serious threat to a range of enterprises. Spurious medicines packaged to look like the real thing can delay proper treatment or even kill. Branded consumer goods these days have tamper-resistant packaging to prevent cheats from selling low-quality replicas.

The printing of items with safeguards against counterfeiting is called security printing. It implements features that humans can detect by themselves or using simple tools. Examples include optically variable ink (whose colour appears to change when viewed from different angles), watermarks, holograms, and security threads. Features like raised shapes and shifting textures are security-printed features a person can check using the sense of touch.

Security printing can also incorporate more complex features that only machines can detect. Some modern passports include a small radio-frequency identification chip that only a scanner can read. Other examples include invisible barcodes, digital watermarks, and holograms.

A nanoparticle solution

An important security-printed feature on Indian banknotes is a number panel in fluorescent ink located at the lower left corner. The numbers here are visible only in ultraviolet light.

Scientists from the Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Mohali, and the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, have now reported a new ink they have made using nanoparticles. Nanoparticles are objects less than 100 nm (nanometres) wide. Because of their small size, they have properties that don't appear in larger objects: they interact differently with light, respond differently to magnetic fields, and are chemically more reactive.

That the discovery of ways to manufacture semiconductor nanoparticles with unusual properties won three scientists the 2023 Nobel Prize for chemistry speaks to nanoparticles' transformative effect on the world.

A simple recipe

In the new study, the nanoparticles were made of Sr_2BiF_7 (strontium bismuth fluoride) doped with lanthanide ions. Doping is the process of deliberately adding impurities to an existing crystal to give it properties it previously didn't have.

Scientists used the coprecipitation technique to make the particles. "To do this, all the metal salts in the required quantity are dissolved in a suitable solvent. Once you get a clear solution, the required amount of precipitation agent is added while stirring," INST scientist and study coauthor Sanyasinaidu Boddu said. Then they used a centrifuge to separate the deposited material out.

"The proposed compound is a new composition and is the first time we have synthesised it by a simple coprecipitation method at just above room temperature, which is very easy to scale up," Boddu added.The team then doped the Sr_2BiF_7 nanocrystals with ions of erbium and ytterbium, both lanthanide elements, and blended them with easily available polyvinyl chloride (PVC) ink. Finally, they used the screen printing technique to print some letters and numbers. Screen printing uses a stencil and a squeegee to transfer an image onto paper.

Two-light trick

When the researchers shone 365-nm wavelength ultraviolet light on these symbols, they emitted a cool blue glow.

Counterfeiting is a serious threat to a range of enterprises. Spurious medicines packaged to look like the real thing can delay proper treatment or even kill. Branded goods have special packaging to prevent cheats from selling low-quality replicas

This process is called fluorescence: when an object absorbs light of one wavelength and emits light of a longer wavelength. Under 395-nm light, the letters glowed magenta. And when the researchers directed near infrared light of 980 nm at the letters, they fluoresced with an orange-red colour.

According to the team, currently available fluorescent inks are visible only under ultraviolet light or infrared light but not both, adding that their ink stands out because it fluoresces in both the ultraviolet and the near-infrared parts of the spectrum. This, they contended in their paper, makes their ink more secure.

This low-cost ink also remains effective under varied brightness, temperature, and humidity conditions.

The study was published in ACS *Applied Materials and Interfaces* in September 2024.

Towards practical use

Bipin Kumar Gupta, senior principal scientist and professor at the CSIR National Physical Laboratory in New Delhi, who wasn't involved in the study, said the paper didn't report the quantum yield of the system. Quantum yield specifies how well the system converts incident light into fluorescence.

"Quantum yield is crucial for applications such as light emitting diodes and display devices. However, a very high quantum yield is not necessary for security applications. ... From our report, it is very clear that the material is showing very good brightness under different excitation wavelengths, and that is sufficient for practical applications," Boddu said.

Gupta received an Indian patent for a bi-luminescent security ink on January 30, 2025, after a US patent for the same object in February 2022. This ink is composed of gadolinium vanadate ($GdVO_4$) doped with europium and emits red and green light under ultraviolet light of two wavelengths.

"To print security features on, say, currency notes, generally offset printing and not screen printing is used," Gupta said when asked about the applicability of the ink developed at INST.

Offset printing uses a system of three rollers. One cylinder 'offsets' the image from a metal plate to a rubber blanket. The image is then transferred to the printing surface. Offset-printed images are sharper and capable of printing smaller letters.

"I agree that screen printing is not used for currency notes. However, there are many other places where you can use screen printing ... We are [also] working towards offset printing." Boddu said. "There are a few more steps to take this material to direct practical applications, and we are working on these steps."

(Unnati Ashar is a freelance science journalist. unnati_a@ymail.com)

THE GIST

Security printing can incorporate features that only machines can detect. Some passports include a chip that only a scanner can read. Other examples include invisible barcodes, digital watermarks, and holograms

Nanoparticles interact differently with light and magnetic fields and are chemically more reactive. The discovery of ways to manufacture semiconductor nanoparticles won three scientists the 2023 Nobel Prize for chemistry

Researchers say, 'The proposed compound is a new composition and is the first time we have synthesised it by a simple coprecipitation method at just above room temperature, which is very easy to scale up'

BIG SHOT

A general view shows erosion on Miami Beach in Queensland, Australia, after the sand was washed away by Storm Alfred on March 9. After days of hovering off the coast as a category 2 tropical cyclone generating heavy weather across the region, Alfred weakened into a tropical depression before making landfall in the evening of March 8. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

Preprints: papers but by name

Vasudevan Mukunth

A preprint paper is a scientific paper made available to read before it has been sent for consideration by a peer-reviewed scientific journal.

Once a group of scientists finishes conducting a study and has collected its findings, it writes up the study's methods and conclusions in a paper and publishes it in a journal. If the journal is peer-reviewed, the journal's editor will share the manuscript with a few independent scientists working in the same field. If their comments are encouraging, the editor accepts the paper for publishing.

A preprint is a paper scientists have written up and uploaded to a preprint repository; if the repository is on the internet, anyone on the web can read it. After uploading a paper as a preprint, the authors may or may not send it to a journal as well.

The quality of science in preprints varies depending on the field and the repository. arXiv (pronounced 'archive') is the world's largest and oldest repository, hosting preprints on mathematics, physics, astronomy, engineering, etc. Since it was launched in 1991, other repositories like bioRxiv, chemRxiv, medRxiv, PsyArXiv, and SSRN Electronic Journal have also come up.

Today, preprints are popular among open-access advocates. IÑAKI DEL OLMO/UNSPLASH

Today, preprints are popular among open-access advocates because they are free to read whereas many journals often charge readers a hefty fee to read papers. Critics have also pointed out that peer review — which remains the main difference between preprints and published papers — fails to catch research that has been deliberately faked.

(mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

'Run in Red' marathon draws over 1,500 people

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 'Run in Red' marathon held on Sunday at Christ University drew over 1,500 participants united by a common cause – raising awareness for women's heart health.

It was organised by Christ University's Department of Hotel Management and 2/9 Company NCC in collaboration with Arogya World MyThali and Marriott International.

Pre-monsoon showers in parts of State on March 11, 12: IMD

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru is one of the places which is expected to receive pre-monsoon showers. FILE PHOTO

Many parts of the State which have been reeling under hot and humid conditions for the past few days are likely to see the onset of pre-monsoon showers this week.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast that pre-monsoon showers are expected over south-interior and coastal Karnataka on March 11 and 12.

The IMD has forecast isolated light rain and thundershowers are very likely to occur over Kolar, Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Chickballapur, Tumakuru, Ramanagara, Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar, Kodagu, and Hassan districts of south-interior Karnataka and Dakshina Kannada and Udupi of coastal Karnataka on March 11. On March 12, the above districts along with Shivamogga and Chikkamagaluru are also likely to receive isolated light rain and thundershowers.

As per the IMD data on Sunday, the Bengaluru city and the Kempegowda International Airport stations recorded a maximum of 34.5 degrees Celsius, and the HAL airport station recorded 34.1 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperatures were 19.7, 18.5, and 18 degrees Celsius, respectively, at these stations.

As per the forecast, the minimum and the maximum temperatures for Bengaluru are very likely to be around 34°C and 20°C in the next few days.

The highest-ever temperature for March was 37.3°C, which was recorded in 1996.

Man loses ₹90 lakh on gaming app

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A case has been registered against unknown persons under IT Act and Section 318 of BNS

After losing ₹90 lakh on a gaming app over two years, a 37-year-old software engineer lodged a complaint with the East Division Cyber Crime police seeking legal action.

Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case against unknown people charging them under the IT Act and section 318 (4) of BNS on Friday.

'Namma Exchange'

In his complaint, the victim said that he was introduced to the gaming app by his friend in June 2023 asking him to invest and play in the app to get good returns.

He also shared a link following which he was connected to the website "Namma Exchange" and created the user ID and password.

The victim deposited ₹10,000 and started to play and bet in the casino and earned ₹40,000 the same day. Excited by this, he transferred ₹50 lakh from his savings while ₹40,000, which he had won through betting, was credited to his account from the application. The complainant informed the police that after losing the amount, he consulted his friend, who advised him that it was normal to lose money initially to gain later and advised him to invest more to recover the lost amount.

Based on his advice, he invested ₹50 lakh more to play and lost the amount only to recover ₹10 lakh as profit. Depressed over the loss, the complainant took a loan for ₹40 lakh and started to play every day from June 3, 2023, till March 6 this year only to lost all the amount.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, MAR. 10	
RISE 06:30	SET 18:29
RISE 15:22	SET 03:43
TUESDAY, MAR. 11	
RISE 06:29	SET 18:30
RISE 16:15	SET 04:29
WEDNESDAY, MAR. 12	
RISE 06:29	SET 18:30
RISE 17:06	SET 05:10

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	22
Mysuru	34	19
Bengaluru	35	20

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be leasant. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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THE HINDU GROUP

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Shri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

Shri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

For the welfare of farmers
CONTRIBUTION OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT

Inauguration of the programme by Hon'ble Chief Minister along with Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister and Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Sri N.Chaluvarayaswamy

Establishment of Digital Agricultural Service Centre.

Steps to make our State a leader in the production of Tur in the country.

Joida taluk will be converted as the first Organic Taluk of the State.

Developing model farms by adopting Integrated Farming System under Raita Samruddhi scheme.

Continuation of Krishi Bhagya Scheme to increase the production of crops grown in rainfed areas.

Establishment of Organic and Millet Hub at a cost of Rs. 20 crore.

Implementation of Comprehensive Rainfed Agriculture Policy.

Formation of an Expert Committee for re-delineation and re-classification of 10 agricultural zones of the State.

Strengthening of 58 laboratories functioning under the Agriculture Department.

Developing model agricultural farms in collaboration with sugar factories through integrated soil and water management.

Promotion of Organic Agricultural products produced by Agricultural startups.

Budget Announcements for the year 2025-26

For more information contact Farmers helpline – 18004253553

KARNATAKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Sheshadri Road, Bengaluru-560001

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Jammu and Kashmir's infant mortality rate drops

16.3 This marks a drop of 16.1 points, according to the Economic Survey Report for 2024-25 tabled by the Jammu and Kashmir government. The neonatal mortality rate (NMR) has reached single digits at 9.8 per 1,000 live births in Jammu & Kashmir, official data showed. PTI

Number of people who are aged 60 and over in China

310 in million. China will accelerate the use of artificial intelligence and big data in elderly and social care as it bets on new technologies to drive economic growth despite an ageing population. The announcement comes as officials grapple with the country's low birth rate. AFP

Time for which the Pompidou museum will remain closed

5 In years. Tourists and French visitors alike filled Paris's landmark Pompidou museum on the weekend to catch a last glimpse of its prestigious art collection ahead of a closure for a major renovation. The artworks are to be given temporary homes in museums across France and in other countries. AFP

The valuation of a spiritual luxury resort project at Puri

200 In ₹ crore. A priest of the Jagannath Temple in Puri said he is setting up a 300-room luxury resort with a strong spiritual focus in the town. The project would be a pure vegetarian and non-liquor retreat, aiming to offer a "satvik" experience to pilgrims. PTI

Saudi Arabia's GDP growth in the fourth quarter of 2024

1.3 In per cent. Saudi Arabia's economy grew in the fourth quarter of 2024 supported by increased non-oil growth and government activities. Non-oil growth rose 4.3% and government activities were up 2.6% while oil activities declined by 4.5%. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What does NEP, 2020 state about languages?

What does the National Education Policy 2020 say about the medium of instruction in schools? Should learning via the mother tongue or the local language be encouraged? What did the eighth All India School Education Survey find? Has the implementation of the three-language policy been a success in the country?

EXPLAINER

Maitri Porecha

The story so far:

Tamil Nadu's resistance to adopting the three-language policy as mandated under the National Education Policy (NEP, 2020) has brought the age-old language debate back under the limelight.

What does NEP 2020 state about language instruction?

Formed after five years of consultations, NEP, 2020 which replaces the previous education policy of 1986 has stated that wherever possible, the medium of instruction, for students in both public and private schools, until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be in the home language or the mother tongue or the local language or the regional language. Thereafter, the home or local language shall continue to be taught as a language wherever possible. Experts who penned the NEP, 2020, led by former Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) chairman K. Kasturirangan, suggested that young children learn and grasp non-trivial concepts more quickly in their home language or mother tongue. The NEP 2020 document states, "Research clearly shows that children pick up languages extremely quickly between the ages of two and eight and that multilingualism has great cognitive benefits to young students, children will be exposed to different languages early on (but with a particular emphasis on the mother tongue), starting from the Foundational Stage onwards." To that end adopting bilingualism (mother tongue along with English) is encouraged in the NEP.

In Haryana for instance, pre-school educators in anganwadis use study material like colourful textbooks to teach alphabets and numbers in Hindi and English, with both Hindi and English fonts printed on the same page accompanied with vivid imagery.

In rage: A protest by DMK-led coalition against the three-language policy in Chennai on February 18. PTI

What did the AISES find regarding languages taught in schools?

The eighth All India School Education Survey (AISES), carried out by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), remains the latest country-wide survey on the medium of instruction and languages taught. It points out that even though a majority number of schools have their mother tongue as the medium of instruction, this number has been coming down over the years (between 2002 to 2009). The eighth survey points out that 86.62% schools teach via the mother tongue at the primary stage as compared to 92.07% schools in the seventh survey. Pointing at the urban-rural divide, the eighth AISES points that 87.56% schools in rural and 80.99% schools in urban areas have their mother tongue as the medium of instruction as compared to 92.39% schools in rural and 90.39% schools in urban areas in the seventh survey.

What is the three-language formula?

The current three-language formula proposed by NEP 2020 has considerably departed from the previously enunciated policy in 1968 which emphasised study of Hindi, English and a modern Indian language (preferably one of the southern languages) in Hindi-speaking States and Hindi, English and a regional language in non-Hindi speaking States. In contrast, the NEP 2020 states that it provides greater flexibility in the three-language formula, and that no language will be imposed on any State. But it does encourage some languages. The policy document dedicates an entire section to lauding Sanskrit and pushes for its inclusion as an option in the three-language formula. The policy document also goes on to say that classical languages, including classical Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, Odia and additionally Pali, Persian, and Prakrit should be available as options.

Additionally, NEP 2020 mentions that in order to promote learning in mother tongue, high-quality textbooks, including in science, will be made available in home languages/mother tongue. To improve access to such educational materials, the NCERT released a set of digital books in 104 regional languages and dialects in 2024, which include Bengali, Khandeshi, Tulu, Ladakhi, Pashto, Bhili, Dogri, Lahuli (Pattani), Car Nicobarese among others. NCERT officials have said that it is the responsibility of the respective State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) to facilitate translations in their respective languages. Last year, Assam following the NEP call, launched bilingual textbooks for Science and Maths in English, Assamese, Bodo as well as Bengali. Andhra Pradesh too introduced bilingual textbooks consisting of Telugu and English in 2023.

However, the implementation of the three-language formula has been poor. For instance, while Tamil was made the second language in 1969 by Haryana's former Chief Minister Bansi Lal, the language was removed from its status in 2010 due to lack of Tamil speakers. Similarly, State education officials in Himachal Pradesh have been unable to offer Telugu and Tamil as language options due to inability to find teachers for these languages.

What about foreign languages?

NEP 2020 states that foreign languages, such as Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian, will also be offered at the secondary level. According to a plan formulated by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), students are to learn two Indian languages till Class 10, and in Class 11 and 12 they have an option to choose to learn one Indian language and one foreign language.

THE GIST

- The NEP, 2020 which replaces the previous education policy of 1986 has stated that wherever possible, the medium of instruction, for students in both public and private schools, until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond, will be in the home language or the mother tongue.
- The current three-language formula proposed by NEP 2020 has considerably departed from the previously enunciated policy in 1968 which emphasised study of Hindi, English and a modern Indian language in Hindi-speaking States and Hindi, English and a regional language in non-Hindi speaking States.
- NEP 2020 states that foreign languages, such as Korean, Japanese, Thai, French, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Russian, will also be offered at the secondary level.

Are unique electoral ID numbers being duplicated?

What has the Trinamool Congress alleged with respect to EPIC numbers? How has the Election Commission of India responded? What is the ERONET digital platform?

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

The story so far:

On February 27, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged that the ruling BJP was "with the blessings of Election Commission of India [EC]" including voters from other States in the West Bengal voters' list. She cited multiple voters with the same Electors Photo Identity Card (EPIC) numbers. The EC responded that irrespective of the EPIC number, a person can cast a vote only at their designated polling stations in their respective States or UTs. The poll body said it would remove these duplications. The Trinamool Congress rejected the clarification stating that it was a "cover-up".

What is an EPIC card?

The EPIC number is a 10-digit voter ID card number issued by the EC to each voter. The number is a unique alphanumeric code assigned to each registered elector to prevent impersonation. It was introduced in 1993 under the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, to enhance electoral transparency. It is assigned via the ERONET digital platform when a new voter registers, after which it is linked to State and constituency data to ensure regional uniqueness. The ERONET is a web-based platform which was developed for election officials, in multiple languages and scripts, to handle all processes pertaining to registration, migration, and deletion of names from electoral rolls. The platform automates the process of electoral roll management.

What was the EC's response?

The Commission said that the allotment of identical EPIC numbers to some voters from different States or UTs was due to the decentralised and manual mechanism being followed prior to shifting the electoral roll database of all States/UTs to the ERONET platform. "This resulted in certain State/UT CEO offices using the same EPIC alphanumeric series and leaving a scope for the possibility of duplicate EPIC numbers being allotted to electors in different Assembly Constituencies in different States/UTs".

However, it clarified that while EPIC numbers of some of the electors may be identical, the other details including demographic details, constituency and polling booth are different for voters with the same EPIC number. It said that irrespective of the EPIC number, an elector can cast a vote only at their designated polling station in their respective constituency in their State/UT where they are enrolled in the electoral roll and nowhere else. In order to allay any apprehensions, the EC said that it would ensure allotment of unique EPIC numbers to registered electors. "Any case of duplicate EPIC number will be rectified by allotting a unique EPIC number. The ERONET 2.0 platform will be updated to aid and assist in this process".

What has Trinamool Congress said?

The Trinamool Congress has countered the EC clarification. Trinamool MP Saket Gokhale said that a voter was linked to his photo by the EPIC number. So, when a voter in Bengal goes to cast his vote, his photo on the electoral roll will be different if the same EPIC number has been allotted to a person in another State. This will lead to the refusal of voting due to a photo mismatch. He alleged that by allotting the same EPIC numbers in different States, voting can be denied to those who are likely to vote for non-BJP parties due to photo mismatch. He added that the EC rules mandate that the software used for issuing EPIC cards keeps track of every used and unused number to ensure that the same EPIC number is not allotted to multiple people.

"This clearly reeks of a conspiracy to conduct voter suppression in favour of the BJP, where voters in non-BJP areas are being targeted by issuing their EPIC numbers to people in other States" Mr. Gokhale said. The Trinamool Congress has promised to give more 'evidence' on the voter ID row.

THE GIST

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee alleged that the ruling BJP was including voters from other States in the West Bengal voters' list.
- The EPIC number is a 10-digit voter ID card number issued by the EC to each voter. The number is a unique alphanumeric code assigned to each registered elector to prevent impersonation.
- The Commission said that the allotment of identical EPIC numbers to some voters from different States or UTs was due to the decentralised and manual mechanism being followed prior to shifting the electoral roll database of all States/UTs to the ERONET platform.

Bengaluru *pete*: Only a pale shadow of its former self

As the Budget announced plans to redevelop Kempegowda Bus Station at Majestic, *The Hindu*, in a six part series, will explore the various facets of the *pete* area, its glory days, and the present

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

As Bengaluru expands without an end and traffic congestion is a big deterrent for people to travel long distances, the city has become truly multi-nodal. Gone are the days when residents used to head to Majestic for shopping, to catch a film on K.G. Road, or to catch a bus to head out of the city.

Still going on: Majestic still remains a significant multi-modal public transport hub and the bylanes of Avenue Road and Chickpet buzz with commercial activities. FILE PHOTO

The beginning

The *pete* area – what is today commonly referred to as Majestic – is the place where Bengaluru began 488 years ago in 1537 and it used to be the nerve centre of the city until recently. But now it is only a pale shadow of its former self.

Vestiges of the mud fort and a watery trench around to protect it from invaders, built by Kempe Gowda, remain, and the *pete* within the old fort retains its character even today.

What is considered the *pete* is bound by Binny Mills to the west, Halasuru Gate Police station to the east, K.R. Market to the south, and Mysore Bank Circle to the north. Avenue Road along the north-south axis and another road across the east-west axis cut through the *pete*.

Avenue Road, a bustling market today, was then the thoroughfare of Bengaluru, through which all the royal processions would pass.

Multiple trades

The bylanes were organised into several *petes* depending on the trade, vocation, or the community in that area – like Akkipete, Balepete, Ganigarapete, Kumbarapete, Taragupete, Tigalarapete, etc.

Some of these pockets continue to trade in these items to this day. For instance, Nagarathpete is even today dominated by jewellery shops.

"In 1498, Vasco da Gama reached the shores of Kerala, opening up trade with the west. These European traders also wanted to establish trade with the Coromandel coast on the east. But the sea route was circuitous, so they chose the land route. Interestingly, all the major trade routes between the west and east coasts of the peninsula pass through this region, which is why Kempe Gowda selected this place to build his capital Bengaluru," explains historian S.K. Aruni, in his book *Bengaluru Parampare*.

Many temples of the *pete* also remain: the Dharmaraya Swamy temple that hosts the city's premier festival of Karaga; the Kote Venkataramana temple near K.R. Market, and the Anjaneya temple at Mysore Bank Circle all date back to the beginnings of Bengaluru or much earlier. The temple of Annamma, considered to be the *grama devete* (village deity) of Bengaluru, is also in Majestic. The Rice Memorial Church on Avenue Road, the Tawakkal Mastan Dargah in Akkipete, the Ibrahim Shah Mosque, and the Bahadur Shah Dargah, built in memoriam of the two *killedars* (commandants) of Bengaluru, a mark of the wars for Bengaluru, show how the *pete* became more cosmopolitan over the centuries.

City and its lake

It is on the Dharmambudhi Kere, said to be built by Kempe Gowda, that the Majestic bus stand is located today. The lifecycle of this *kere* itself tells the story of the *pete* and the expansion of the city.

The water from this lake served as a drinking water source for the *pete* for centuries. However, as the city grew and was hit by the plague in the late 19th century, piped water was brought to the *pete* from Thippagondanahalli, sanitation habits changed, and the role of the lake declined. It dried up and was used as space for congregations and theatre troupes to pitch tents, before it was converted into a public bus transport hub.

The plague eventually forced the administration to expand the city further and build the planned layouts of Chamarajpet and Malleswaram. Since then, the *pete* has been losing its role as the *prima donna* of the big Bengaluru opera.

Still the hub

But Majestic still remains a significant multi-modal public transport hub.

A few single-screen theatres remain and the old *pete* area remains a wholesale market for various goods.

K.R. Market continues to be the nerve centre for the city's vegetables, fruits, and flowers supply. The city's road network is even today modelled on the hub-and-spoke model, with the *pete* area being the hub.

Though the two ring roads are designed as a bypass to the *pete* area, the activity hasn't reduced. The bylanes of Avenue Road and Chickpet buzz with commercial activities and are swarmed by so many people that it still continues to be tough to even walk.

Techie, his mother killed in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 31-year-old software engineer and his mother were killed and three others injured, when their car collided with a private bus in Kencharlahalli police station limits on Sunday.

The deceased have been identified as Dhananjaya Reddy and his mother Kalavathy. The police said that Dhananjaya's wife, his daughter, and his sister-in-law were injured and were admitted to hospital.

The incident occurred when they were returning home after attending a family programme at Kadapa. He was negotiating a curve and lost control and crashed into the private bus, said the police.

The car toppled and caught fire. Dhananjaya who was driving the car and his mother who was seated next to him were killed and their bodies partially burnt, said the police.

The other three seated in the back sustained injuries and were rescued by passers-by and the bus passengers.

A few passengers and the driver of the bus sustained minor injuries in the accident.

The injured were shifted to hospital and were said to be out of danger. The Kencharlahalli police have registered a case of death due to negligence and rash and negligent driving against the bus driver.

Five senior citizens from city die in accident in Chitradurga taluk

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Five persons died and another suffered injuries after their car hit a truck parked on National Highway 48, near Thamatagallu in Chitradurga taluk on Sunday.

The deceased were identified as N.S. Rudraswamy, 69, Chandrahasa, 67, Shanthamurthy, 79, Srinivasa, 69, and Mallikarjun, 70.

Chidambarachar, 72, suffered serious injuries and is undergoing treatment at the district hospital in Chitradurga.

All of them are residents of Bengaluru. The incident occurred when they were returning home after visiting the Renuka Yellamma temple at Saundatti in Belagavi district.

Chandrahasa was at the wheel. Prasanna Kumar, son of Rudraswamy, has filed a complaint with the Chitradurga Rural police accusing Chandrahasa of driving the vehicle in a negligent manner and also the truck driver of parking his vehicle without taking any precautionary measures, as the cause of the accident. The truck driver fled from the place.

Senior police officers visited the spot. The police shifted the bodies to the district hospital and informed the family members of the deceased.

The Chitradurga Rural police have registered a case.

All the senior citizens had retired from government service and were returning to Bengaluru after visiting religious places in North Karnataka.

Police crack murder case of rowdy sheeter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Soladevanahalli police cracked the murder case of a 42-year-old rowdy sheeter who was hacked to death by an armed gang at a bar and restaurant recently.

According to the police, the accused had killed the victim to avenge the death of their associate

Gang rivalry

The deceased was identified as Jayaram who was killed over gang rivalry.

Based on CCTV camera footage, the police tracked down Uday, 19, near the Gollahalli railway bridge. Following Uday's arrest, the police arrested the prime accused, Muniraju, 24, and his associates Rajesh K., 21, Yatish Gowda, 26, and Vinay Kumar, 25, from different parts of the city.

According to the police, the accused are friends of Kiran, a habitual offender who was murdered by Jayaram in 2016 over an old rivalry. The police arrested Jayaram in this regard. He was remanded in judicial custody.

After a year, Jayaram came out on bail and started a chicken stall in Chikkabommasandra.

The accused hatched a plan to kill Jayaram to avenge the death of Kiran and visited the chicken shop a few times to threaten him. Uday used to follow Jayaram and update others about his movements.

Jayaram, who noticed this, had discussed it with his family members.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that my clients viz., **Mr. IMRAN KHAN** S/o Sri. Meherban Ali Khan and **Mrs. AYESHA AZEEZA BEGUM** W/o Sri. Imran Khan, have proposed to purchase the Property bearing all that piece and parcel of the property bearing BDA Site No. 216, BDA Katha PID No. 6000079286, comprised in Sy. No. 24, situated at 18th Block, Arkavathi Layout, Byrathikhane Village, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 6.00 Meters, North to South 9.00 Meters, totally measuring 54.00 Sq.Mtrs., bounded on the, **East by:** Site No. 217; **West by:** Site No. 215; **North by:** Road; **South by:** Site No. 228; from it's present Owner **Smt. NARAYANAMMA** W/o Late Sri. Gundu Rao K., had inherited the same along with larger extent of land in Sy No. 24 of Byrathikhane Village, through her deceased Husband & succeed to the entire Schedule Property.

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections/ claims with documentary evidence within 15 days from this day to the undersigned. In the absence of any claims within the above said period, it shall be deemed that there are no such claims or that if there are any claims and they have not been made, it shall be deemed to have been waived.

P. NAGAMUNI REDDY, Advocate
SNN Associates, No. 57, Nithyashree, 2nd Main, Munis Reddy, Layout, Horamavu Signal Near Maharaja Furniture on Service Road, Bangalore-560043
M: 9449827089 & 9945159840

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALAKKAD DIVISION

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.

E-TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/05/2025 Dated : 07.03.2025

Sl. No.	Name of work
1.	Repairs to Running Room at Kannur.
2.	Kannur - Repairs to existing water supply pipe line from Kannur South Railway Station to Kannur Railway Station.
3.	Repairs to PF shelter roofing and replacement of dilapidated PF shelter gutters and down water pipes at Senior Section Engineer / Works / Palakkad and Senior Section Engineer / Works / Shoranur jurisdiction.
4.	Palakkad Division - Provision of new height gauge at RUB No. 522 at km . 493/331-342, Br. No. 539 at km 502/612-617, Br. No. MK 6 at km 506/235-243 on B line and Br No. 546 at km 508/171-182 on A line between Podanur - Walayar stations.
5.	Shoranur Jn - Nilambur section - Provision of new crossing station at Kulukallur between Shoranur and Angadipuram stations and at Melattur between Angadipuram and Vaniambalam stations : Track portion works (Scope of work includes New Track and over run line 970 mtrs and P&Cs)
6.	Palakkad division : Provision of AC facility and other amenities at Palakkad and Mangalore TTE rest rooms. (Civil Engineering portion).
7.	Proposed Construction of CC drains & Trolley refuge between Calicut & Mangalore (Location as per Annexure).
8.	Podanur - Shoranur, Shoranur - Nilambur and Mangalore - Panambur section : Through bridge sleeper renewal on girder bridges with H beam sleepers (Location and scope are enclosed as annexure.
9.	Provision of Rolling in examination huts and lights, provision of sufficient lights in between platform tracks at stations and Covering of drainage between Platform tracks at Calicut, Kannur, Mangalore & Mangalore Jn stations.

Sl. No.	Approx. Cash Value in lakh (Rs.)	Bid Security Amount Rs.	Tender Closing date on 15.00 hrs	Completion period in Months
1.	34.24	68,500/-	01/04/2025	Six
2.	92.22	1,84,400/-	01/04/2025	Six
3.	58.79	1,17,600/-	01/04/2025	Six
4.	100.93	2,00,500/-	01/04/2025	Eight
5.	155.60	2,27,800/-	01/04/2025	Six
6.	22.42	44,800/-	01/04/2025	Four
7.	608.34	4,54,200/-	08/04/2025	Nine
8.	519.41	4,09,700/-	08/04/2025	Twelve
9.	53.92	1,07,900/-	01/04/2025	Six

(1) All the contracts on Works / goods / services will be subject to the New GST Act as applicable from time to time.

(2) Contractors / Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from **01.07.2017** onwards .

(3) For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site **"http://www.ireps.gov.in"**.

Note : It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modification uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination
Southern Railway / Palakkad.
(For and on behalf of the President of India

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಆಯುಷ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಚೇರಿ, ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸುಗ್ಗನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ,
ರಾಮನಗರ ತಾ॥ ಮತ್ತು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಇ-ಮೇಲ್:atcsramanagar@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: AYD/2024-25/SE0131call-2(service for food) ದಿನಾಂಕ:05-03-2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ-2

ವಿಷಯ: ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸುಗ್ಗನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡೆಯುವ ತರಬೇತಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ತಿಂಡಿ, ಊಟ, ತಯಾರಿಸಲು/ಪೂರೈಸಲು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕುರಿತು.

ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಸುಗ್ಗನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಯುವ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಗಾರಗಳಲ್ಲಿ CMC ಯಿಂದ ಅನುಮತಿ ಪಡೆದ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗೆ ಲೈಸನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಹಾಗೂ ಟ್ರೇಡ್ (Trade) ಲೈಸನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಸ್ಥಳೀಯ ಹೋಟಲ್ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಂದ ದ್ವಿಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸೀಲ್ ಬಂದ ಲಕೋಟೆಯಲ್ಲಿ e-tender ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಲೈಸನ್ಸ್ ಹೊಂದಿದ ಹೋಟಲ್ ಮಾಲೀಕರು ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಾಕಲು ಅರ್ಹರಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅತೀ ಕಡಿಮೆ ದರ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಹೋಟಲ್ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯ ಮಾಲೀಕರಿಗೆ ಆದೇಶ ನೀಡಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕದಿಂದ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದವರೆಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪೂರೈಕೆ ಆದೇಶ ಚಾಲ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಸುಗ್ಗನ ಹಳ್ಳಿ ರವರು ಒಪ್ಪಿದ ದರಗಳ ಅವಧಿಯನ್ನು ನಿಗಧಿತ ದಿನಾಂಕಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮುಂಚಿತವಾಗಿ ಮುಕ್ತಾಯಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅಥವಾ ರದ್ದು ಪಡಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.

1) ಶೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚಾರಪಡಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06/03/2025, 2) ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 52000/-, 3) ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 15-03-2025 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 4) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 17-03-2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.45, 5) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18-03-2025 ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ 11.45, 6) ಇ-ಮೇಲ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : atcsramanagar@gmail.com

ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು Website: Through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಿಂದಲೂ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಕೆಲಸದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲು ಮೊ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 9880768986, 9886672701, 9916563023 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು,

ಸಹಿ/-
ಉಪನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಆಯುಷ್ ತರಬೇತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ

DIPR/CP/5558/Zen/2024-25

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

Bhima Unveils 'Marvellous March'

A Month of Spectacular Savings & Grand Rewards! Bhima, a trusted name in fine jewellery, is making March truly marvellous with 'Marvellous March'- a grand shopping festival starting from 1st to 31st March 2025. This is the perfect time to indulge in timeless treasures with exciting discounts and grand prizes. As part of the celebrations, Bhima is offering up to 70% off on making charges for gold and silver jewellery. On diamond jewellery, Bhima is offering a special ₹7,000 off and free1 gm gold coin per carat on every diamond purchase. Bhima's diamond collection features meticulously crafted pieces, including elegant solitaires, dazzling necklaces, and timeless rings. Adding to the excitement, Bhima is giving away 20 Nissan Magnite SUV as a bumper prize via a lucky draw. Additionally, a scratch-and-win offer gives customers a chance to receive cash back up to ₹150 per gram on their jewellery purchases. Customers can experience the magic of Marvellous March at any Bhima store. Don't miss this once-a-year opportunity to enjoy exclusive savings, win big prizes, and make this March truly fabulous!

KSRTC and Managing Director, KSRTC received Governance Now 11th PSU National Award and Public Sector Undertakings Leadership Award – 2025*

At the awards ceremony organized by Governance Now, KSRTC's MD, Shri V. Anbukumar, IAS, was bestowed with the *PSU Atmanirbhar Leadership Award as Best MD* award. The award was presented by Shri. Satish Chandra Dubey, Hon'ble Minister of State for Ministry of Coal and Mines, Government of India and Shri.Satyapal Singh former Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resource Development and Water Resources , River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Govt.of India. At KSRTC a total of 1,314 buses have been successfully refurbished in the corporation, including 1184 Karnataka Sarige buses, 115 city buses, and 15 Airavat Club Class buses. This initiative has resulted in savings of over ₹250 crore for KSRTC. The project, undertaken in line with the concept of the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, has been recognized for its excellence in promoting self-reliance. Shri B. S. Nagaraj Murthy, Deputy Chief Mechanical Engineer, KSRTC, was also present at the event.

Theatre Presentations Based on Ramana Maharshi's life and Teachings at the 48th National Seminar and Cultural Festival

Ramana Maharshi Centre for learning in association with Bhagawan Sri Ramana Maharshi Research Centre presented a mega Theatre Production "Arunachala Gamana" as a part of the 48th National Seminar and Cultural festival at the Ramana Maharshi Heritage Auditorium. This theatre presentation was part of the series of productions titled "Arunachala Ramana" which is based on the Inner journey into Ramana's life. The Direction, concept and lead was by Dr. Sarada and Kalaimamani Dr. Ambika Kameshwar. It was presented by the artistes of Ramana Maharshi Centre for Learning and RASA Arpita, Chennai. The dance drama started with the glory of the sacred hill Arunachala and journey of young Ramana Maharshi, who was born with the constant throbbing of Arunachala in his heart. The two narrators Kala, the time and Desha, the space expounding the spiritual insights of the mystical journey of Ramana from Madurai to Arunachala. Continuing the festival the Artistes of the Centre premiered a new theatre production "Ramana Pada Mahima", based on the Ramana Pada Pancharatna. The Theatre presentation had a live narration by Sri B R Sivaram, a senior theatre personality and voice over artiste playing the role of the poet Siva Prakasham Pillai. The Story explored the question "Who am I?" the teachings of Ramana Maharshi and his life from his childhood to his reign in Arunachala. Ramana Maharshi's earlier Years at Arunachala and his love towards all creatures including Jackie, the dog and Lakshmi, the cow were presented with great fineness.

United Hospital Celebrating Women's Day with Strength, Courage, and Care

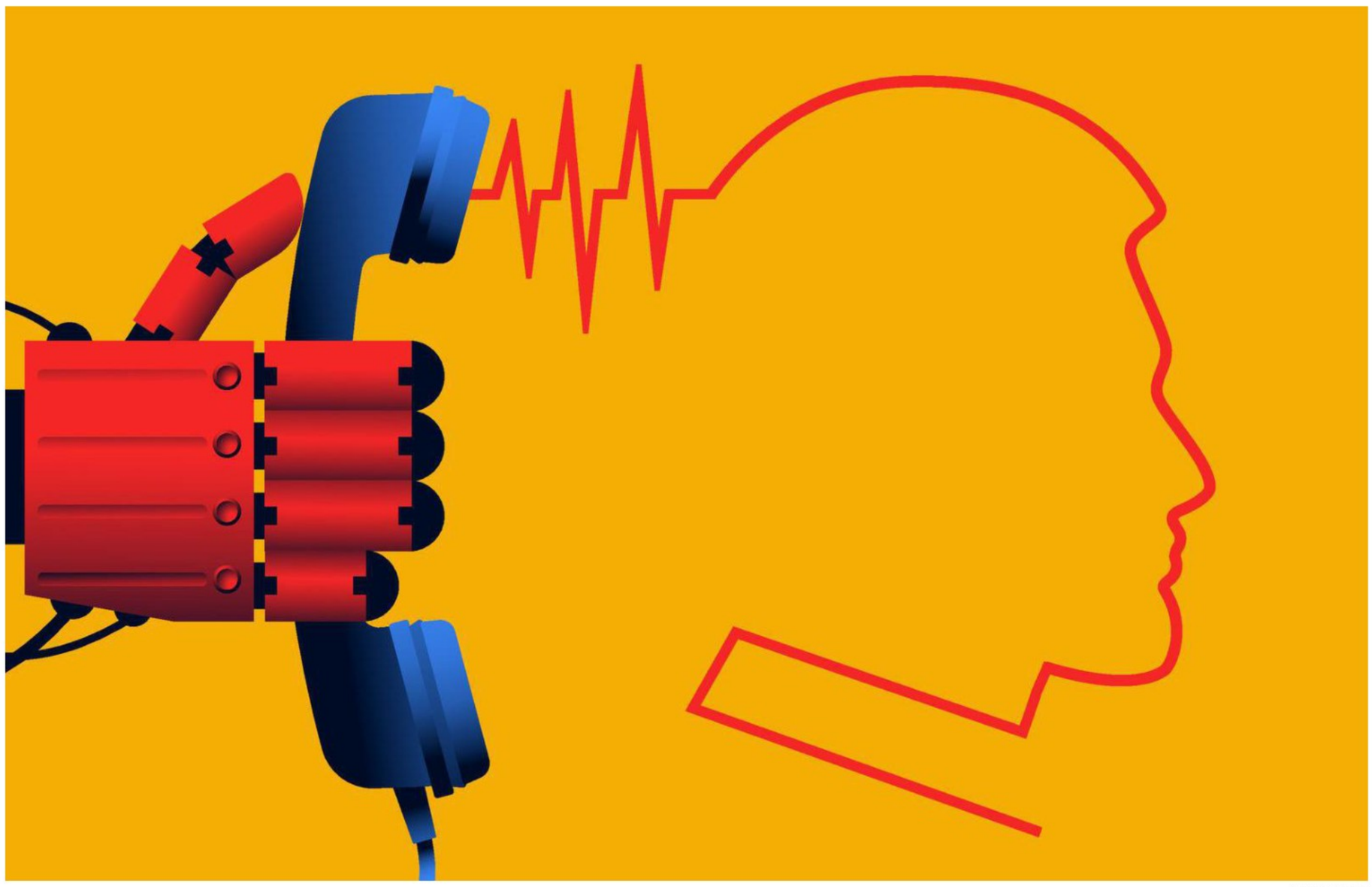
UNITED HOSPITAL — Care Par Excellence — Jayanagar, Bangalore — NABH — No.1

As a mark of respect and recognition of Women strength, United Hospital is celebrating International Women's Day with female patients, acknowledging their courage in fighting illnesses and their unwavering determination to lead healthy lives. Organizing special celebrations within the hospital, where our team will interact with them, share inspiring stories, and recognize their journey toward better health. Launching the Women's Day Healthcare Package In line with our commitment to women's health, we are proud to introduce the Women's Day Healthcare Package–a specially designed health check-up package that caters to the specific needs of women across different age groups. This Cardio-Gynec package aims to provide comprehensive screening and early detection of various health conditions, ensuring that every woman gets the care she deserves. By launching this initiative, aim to encourage women to prioritize their health and make informed decisions about their well-being. Take advantage of this limited-time Women's Day Healthcare Package and invest in health. For more details or to book your appointment, visit https://unitedhospitals.com/

Malabar Gold & Diamonds unveils new showroom in Hennur main raod, Bengaluru

Bengaluru, February 28th, 2025: Malabar Gold & Diamonds, the responsible jeweller proudly announces the opening of its newest showroom in Hennur Main Road, Kuvempu Layout, Bangalore, spanning an impressive around 6000 sqft, the space aims to provide customers with an unparalleled jewellery shopping experience, featuring an extensive range of designs and collections. This milestone highlights the brand's continued commitment to strengthening its presence in India. The showroom marks the brand's 20th showroom in Bengaluru and the 38th in Karnataka the grand opening took place on Friday, 28th February further solidifying its leadership in the region. The showroom was inaugurated by, Shri Byrati Basavaraj, hon'ble MLA of the KR Puram Constituency & Indian actress Srinidhi Shetty. in the presence of Mr. Filsor Babu, Regional Head - Karnataka, Management Team Members, customers and well-wishers.

CACHE



GETTY IMAGES

How scammers use Gen AI, and what you can do to protect yourself

With AI-generated videos, attackers can orchestrate intricate scenarios or even circumvent system tests designed to verify the user's humanity. It is best to be cautious of unexpected requests for money, even from your loved ones

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

In December 2024, the U.S. FBI issued a warning, stating that criminals are increasingly exploiting generative artificial intelligence (AI) to commit fraud on a larger scale, making their schemes more convincing. Enterprising criminals exploit generative AI-powered text, images, videos, and audio to trap victims who lack technological proficiency or time and are too exhausted to thoroughly assess potentially hazardous content.

How is generative AI used to carry out financial fraud?

Today, a variety of unregulated or even illegal generative AI tools are available on the web. These tools enable the creation of scams from start to finish, resulting in a web of multimedia tricks that separates victims from their money. Attackers can use text generators alone to craft grammatically correct messages that threaten or deceive victims in their native languages. They can also generate malicious code to create websites that compromise victims' systems.

Criminals can exploit AI images to create convincing deepfakes of victims, fooling their loved ones. They can also fabricate false photos of crucial documents, produce sexually explicit images for extortion, establish fake social media or dating app profiles, and even portray celebrities endorsing services and scams they would never support in real life, as per the FBI's recent release. Malicious users can exploit the voice cloning technology in generative AI audio tools to create fake recordings of real people in distress. These recordings can be sent as voice messages or even as fake yet complex telephone calls to force their contacts into transferring money.

When AI-generated videos enter the scene, attackers can orchestrate intricate scenarios or even circumvent system tests designed to verify the user's humanity. For instance, by capturing just a few seconds of video from your social media account, an attacker could create a convincing deepfake video call where you appear to have been involved in an accident and are desperately seeking financial assistance.

What are some warning signs of AI-generated financial fraud?

It is best to be cautious of unexpected requests for money, even from your loved ones. Additionally, be wary of surprise requests to carry out various financial activities, including redeeming gift cards, claiming prize money, paying fines, repaying loans, paying customs officials, or paying bail. Be extra cautious when receiving texts or media files from unfamiliar users. Unless you have a secure device or environment, refrain from opening such files.

When video scams, like the prevalent 'digital arrest' scheme, target a victim, the caller will likely resort to aggressive or intimidating tactics to force compliance. They might create a sense of urgency, claiming that time is running out and/or that the victim needs to act urgently. Additionally, they might emphasise the importance of keeping the matter a secret from others. It is crucial to avoid sharing any financial information or transferring money through unsecured channels to prevent yourself from falling for such scams. Instead of believing a caller who shows you their uniform and police ID (since this could be a deepfake), reach out directly to the police for guidance. Cease all communication and contact the person involved directly.

How can users keep themselves safe from AI-enabled crime?

One way to safeguard yourself and your family from AI-generated financial fraud is by using a family password. This is a unique word known only to you and your immediate family members. You can use it to verify the identity of others whenever you want. For instance, if you receive a phone call from your child or parent requesting a large sum of money, ask them for the family password to ensure that their voice hasn't been cloned by a stranger. Agree on a strong and difficult-to-guess password. Regularly updating your password is also recommended. If your family has minors or vulnerable elders, ensure that their devices are safeguarded. Lock and set their social media accounts to 'private' mode to prevent the misuse of their personal photos and audio. Educate your children about online safety and help them distinguish between genuine and AI-generated content.

When using dating apps, users should report any matches who use AI-generated media. Never share personal financial information with romantic matches, and never agree to transfer money, invest in cryptocurrency, pay customs charges for parcels, or accept gift cards. Until you completely trust the person and have met them in person, stay on the app's messaging platform and avoid switching to other apps like WhatsApp or email.

When donating to charities, ensure that the featured images of different causes and team members are genuine. Give to groups or individuals you trust deeply, those whom you know personally, or those with high transparency levels. Additionally, you can use Gen AI image detectors to review photos.

Finally, do not implicitly trust calls from users whose profile pictures include police or military-related accessories, as these can be easily generated using AI. Real police officers never arrest or make demands of you through video calls. If you encounter such a call, record it and submit the evidence to a genuine police station. Alternatively, you can report malicious content generated by AI through the national cyber-crime portal.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on movements which countered the rise of fascism in different parts of the world

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

The _____ _____ ___ (1936-1939) anticipated many of the characteristics of World War II, including the cross-ideological opposition to fascism as a state ideology. In the former, however, the anti-fascist forces lost, paving the way for a controversial 36-year dictatorship. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

What is the two-word label given to the ideology that draws from both Stalinism and fascism? The label, whose use is controversial, originated when social democrats, liberals, and other similar political groups used it to describe the regressive aspects of Stalinism.

QUESTION 3

While the X movement shares its name with that of the organisation founded during the Weimar republic, it has different roots — including, from the late 1980s, the practice of squatting in West Germany. Name X.

QUESTION 4

A particular miners' strike in March 1921, in the Istrian peninsula is often regarded as the world's first anti-fascist uprising. On March 7, workers in many mines in the area assumed control of their management and proclaimed the area to be a new republic. What was this republic called? It existed for one month.

QUESTION 5

In 1945, four countries established a joint tribunal that conducted the event known popularly as the _____ _____. It lasted from November 1945 to October 1946, and among other things helped delegitimise fascism as a "criminal ideology". Fill in the blanks.

Visual question:
This is the seal of the U.S. Senate. Name the symbol at the bottom depicting a pair of bound bundles of wood with an axe passing through and emerging from the top. The word 'fascism' came from this symbol's name because of its frequent use by Mussolini.

Questions and Answers to the March 7 edition of the daily quiz: 1. This event, was started by a massive women-led protest on March 8, 1917, in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg), Russia. **Ans: February Revolution**
2. This Indian social reformer and educationist co-founded the first school for girls in Pune along. **Ans: Savitribai Phule**
3. This West Asian country saw tens of thousands of women protest against newly imposed compulsory veiling laws. **Ans: Iran**
4. This pioneering scientist became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize. **Ans: Marie Curie-Skłodowska**
5. This person, a Kenyan environmentalist and women's rights activist, became the first African woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. **Ans: Wangarĩ Maathai**
Visual: This Chinese writer and feminist was a leading figure in 20th-century Chinese literature. However, her activism later led to persecution during this Chinese political event. **Ans: Ding Ling, Cultural Revolution**
Early Birds: Siddhartha Viswanathan| Akshay Kumar Khanna| Debarati Kar| Adya Upasana Routray| Rhythm Jain

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

The funds are earmarked for the school tour

I hope the new hires are not a bunch of sad-sacks like the previous time

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of 'earmark'? (J. Tara, Mumbai)

In India, this is a word that is frequently heard on television news channels when experts are invited to talk about the budget that the Finance Minister is likely to present. When the Government earmarks a certain amount of money for a particular project – for example, it could be for road widening or for cancer research – it sets aside funds to achieve its objective. This amount it puts aside is to be used only for the specified project, and not for anything else. Earmarking lets people know how the funds will be used. With the passage of time, the word has begun to be used in contexts other than finance – in everyday contexts, 'earmark' is used to mean 'characteristic' or 'distinguishing mark'.

Most people were sad to note that only two percent of the budget had been earmarked for education.

Several hundred crores have been earmarked for cancer research.

The beaming Minister said that the newly launched car had all the earmarks of a classic.

The word 'earmark' is a combination of two words – 'ear' and 'mark', and when it began to be used in the English language, it had nothing to with finance; believe it or not, it had more to do with farming. In the past, in order to identify his livestock – sheep, cattle, pigs, etc. – a farmer would cut or mark the ear of every animal he owned. Every farmer used a different mark, and this helped him avoid unnecessary arguments with his neighbours.

Why are some people called 'sad sacks'? (T.V. Harish, Kochi)

First of all, not all dictionaries list this word. The ones that do, spell the word differently – some spell it as one word (sadsack), some as two (sad sack), while others hyphenate it (sad-sack). One thing that all dictionaries agree on, however, is that it is a word that is always used in informal contexts to refer to a clumsy individual – usually, a man. When you refer to someone as a sad sack, what you are suggesting is that the person is boring and is incapable of doing anything well. Watching the blundering fool in action, you feel pity for him because you realise that he is unlikely to succeed in life. The word can be used both as a noun and an adjective.

I was shocked to note that the new appointees were nothing more than a bunch of sad sacks.

Given our talent, don't expect anything great. It's likely to be a sad-sack performance.

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Insouciant:
marked by blithe unconcern

Synonyms: casual, nonchalant

Usage: *It is an utterly insouciant financial policy.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/insouciantpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnˈsuːsɪənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Namma Metro ridership down by average of 1 lakh per day

This January, it was 2,49,14,736, whereas in February it came down to 2,09,90,894, according to BMRCL data

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

It has been a month now since Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) implemented a hike in the fares of Namma Metro. In this one month, as many commuters started exploring other transportation options, the average ridership of metro has come down by almost 1 lakh per day.

According to the data available on the BMRCL website, in January the ridership was 2,49,14,736, whereas in February it came down to 2,09,90,894, almost 40 lakh fewer.

Commenting on the ridership, a BMRCL official said, "The ridership, on an average, was about 8.5 lakh to 9 lakh on weekdays before the fare hike. After the hike, there has definitely been a fall in ridership, as it stands at 7.5 lakh to 8 lakh on average every day. Although we cannot predict the trends as of now, it is good for us even if the ridership stabilises at 8 lakh every day as of now."

On Saturday, the ridership was 6,68,379.

After the fare hike was implemented on February 9, many commuters noticed that the fares on their regular routes had gone up by almost 100%. Many such commuters and even political leaders demanded a rollback on the fare hike. The commuters were disappointed when the same did not happen.

After public outrage about the fare hike, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the BMRCL to revise "abnormal hikes" on February 13. A day later, BMRCL announced that the maximum hike would be capped at 71% instead of 100%. "Public transport should be all about convenience and affordability. Lately, the metro has not been providing either of them. The trains are heavily crowded, the frequency is not great, and the prices burn a hole in the pocket. My one-way commute from Jalahalli to Jayanagar costs almost ₹70 now, and the same commute on my bike also costs roughly the same amount," lamented Varun Bharadwaj, a regular commuter.

The Bangalore Metro Commuters' Association was expecting the hike to be at least revised to a lesser percentage during the State Budget presented on March 7. The members said that it was disappointing that the metro fare was not even a discussion point during the Budget session.

Impact of metro fare hike according to Greenpeace India survey

- **62.9%** rely on public transport (metro and buses combined)
- **40.4%** use metro as their primary mode of transport
- **73.4%** spend over ₹50 daily on transport, which is **72.9%** more than they spend on a meal
- **82.4%** thought fare hike was unjust and impacted mobility
- **75.4%** (38.2% women) cut down on non-essential travel owing to rising costs
- **84.8%** Demanded a rollback of hike

IT employees demand healthy work-life balance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The IT capital on Sunday played host to a mass gathering of IT sector employees demanding a healthy work-life balance. The Karnataka State IT/ITeS Employees Union (KITU) had organised the movement rallying under the slogan, "A healthy work-life balance is every employee's right."

The protest highlighted key demands, including enforcing daily working hour limits, ending the IT sector's exemption from the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, taking strict action against labour law violations, and implementing the "Right to Disconnect."

"Countries like Australia have already implemented a 'Right to Disconnect' law, empowering employees to refuse work-related communications outside of their usual working hours, without fear of penalty, aiming to improve work-life balance. We need a similar right here in India as well that prioritises the mental health of employees," said Akash S., who works for a U.S.-based startup and was present at the protest.

70 hours a week

Last year, Infosys founder N. Narayana Murthy advised the youngsters of the country to work 70 hours a week. Later, in January this year, he said that no one could demand long hours at work, but people should introspect on such issues and understand the need for it.

While addressing such demands and other issues in the sector, the KITU leadership emphasised various studies highlighting the adverse health effects of extended working hours on IT employees.

Suhas Adiga, the union's general secretary, criticised the toxic work culture in the IT sector, where employees' fundamental right to personal life is constantly under threat.

Blessing the couple

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Minister for Housing B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan greeting Tejasvi Surya, MP, and his wife Sivasri Skandaprasad at their wedding reception in Bengaluru on Sunday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mekedatu: Survey on to ascertain extent of area that will get submerged, says DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials of the Revenue and Forest departments are undertaking a survey to ascertain the extent of land that would get submerged owing to the Mekedatu balancing reservoir project proposed near Kanakapura, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Sunday.

"The office for the Mekedatu project has been established. Revenue and Forest officials are undertaking a survey to ascertain the extent of land that will get submerged. A big work of bringing the Cauvery water to improve the lives of people is under way," he said at Bhoohalli-Hoskere, near Kanakapura after laying the foundation stone to development works.

He said he had brought ₹400 crore grants to the Kanakapura Assembly constituency.

"If I get big grants at a time, representatives of other constituencies may question. Grants will be brought in stages to fulfill the aspirations of people. About ₹250 crore worth works are being undertaken from the Water Resources Department alone here," he said.

> A big work of bringing Cauvery water to improve the lives of people is under way
> **D.K. SHIVAKUMAR,** Deputy Chief Minister

Mr. Shivakumar said he would strive to fill as many tanks as possible and that this would be taken up in phases during the current regime.

"I am happy about the project to bring water from Sangama to fill 21 lakes in this region," he said after laying the foundation stone for the project near Sangama.

He also laid the foundation stone to construct a series of check dams to enable water flow into the Arkavati.

Reiterating his appeal to people not to sell their land as land prices could go up, the Deputy Chief Minister said that since silk imports from China had come down, the price of locally grown mulberry had increased.

"That is why you should not sell land. You will get a good price," he said.

Wild bear dies at BBP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A wild bear aged about two, which was rescued from a snare in Tumakuru Forest Range and brought to Bannerghatta Biological Park (BBP) for treatment, has died. Officials said that the bear was brought to BBP for treatment on February 28.

Birth of cubs

BBP also announced the birth of six tiger cubs.

It added that another tigress named Arunya aged eight gave birth to two cubs on February 16.

Notice Inviting Expression of Interest

(RIL/E&P/EOI/2025/02)

(Under International Competitive Bidding)

Reliance is India's largest private sector company, with a consolidated revenue of ₹ 10,00,122 crore (US$ 119.9 billion), cash profit of ₹ 1,41,969 crore (US$ 17.0 billion) and net profit of ₹ 79,020 crore (US$ 9.5 billion) for the year ended March 31, 2024. Reliance's activities span hydrocarbon exploration and production, petroleum refining and marketing, petrochemicals, advanced materials and composites, renewables (solar and hydrogen), retail and digital services. Currently ranked 86th, Reliance is the largest private sector company from India to be featured in Fortune's Global 500 list of 'World's Largest Companies' for 2024.

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Reliance Industries Limited (RIL), as operator, on behalf of itself & its co-venturers invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from reputed and experienced Contractors/ Vendors for following categories, for the blocks acquired under NELP-I:

Category Number	Category Description
DRL/COMN/2025/1	All Services, Equipment and Materials for Exploratory & Development Drilling, Completion, Workover & Intervention
GAG/COMN/2025/2	Geophysical Surveys particularly MagnetoTelluric, Gravity, Magnetic and Seismic Surveys
DEV/COMN/2025/3	Geo-Technical Investigation for Offshore Field Development
DEV/COMN/2025/4	Geo-Physical Surveys for Offshore Field Development
DEV/COMN/2025/5	Geo-Hazard Studies for Offshore Field Development
DEV/COMN/2025/6	Engineering of Facilities for Deepwater Fields
DEV/COMN/2025/7	Collection, Analysis and Interpretation of Meteorological and Oceanographic data for Offshore Field Development.
DEV/COMN/2025/8	Design Review, Appraisal, Certification and Verification Agency
OAM/KGD6/2025/9	Refurbishment and Modifications of Mud plant

Interested Contractors/Vendors are requested to visit our website **www.ril.com (eB2B> For Suppliers> E&P Notice for EOI**) for further details on the above and submit their EOI through e-mail on **deveoiresponse.eandp@ril.com**, **on or before 31 March 2025**. Subject of the mail should mention **"RIL/E&P/EOI/2025/02"** along with category number. For documents size beyond 10 MB, Contractors/Vendors should request RIL through e-mail to provide FTP link for uploading EOI documents.

Address for Communication

Chief – Supply Chain Management,
Reliance Industries Limited, Petroleum Business (E&P),
Reliance Corporate Park (RCP),
Building No 11, 'A' Wing, Second Floor,
Thane-Belapur Road, Ghansoli, Navi Mumbai - 400 701, India.
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ADMISSION TO POSTGRADUATE AND RESEARCH PROGRAMMES – 2025-26

JNCASR invites online applications for admission to the following degree programmes:

Research Programmes [Ph.D./MS(Engg.)/MS(Research)] in Sciences and Engineering from candidates with M.Sc. or equivalent, BE/B.Tech/BS (4 year) or equivalent or ME/M.Tech. or equivalent or B.V.Sc./M.V.Sc. or MBBS/M.D. as applicable to individual Units. Candidates should have at least 55% marks in their highest University examination and should also have qualified in any one of the National exams: GATE/JEST/GPAT/UGC-JRF/CSIR-JRF/ICMR-JRF/DBT-JRF/ INSPIRE-JRF.

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Integrated Ph.D. Programmes in Physical Science, Chemical Science and Biological Science. Candidates should have a minimum of 55% marks at the Bachelor's level. Those appearing in the final examination of their Bachelor's degree this year may also apply. Candidates qualified in the Joint Admissions test for Masters (JAM) 2025 are encouraged to apply.

Post Graduate Diploma in Materials Science Candidates who have completed their M.Sc. in any branch of Science are eligible to apply.

Applicants are advised to visit the website **https://www.jncasr.ac.in/admission/degree-programmes** for detailed information about the programmes, eligibility criteria, etc. The last date for submission of online applications is **10.04.2025.**

Sd/-, Deputy Controller of Examinations

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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Govt. will revisit safety measures at tourist places: Home Minister

We are going to step up security in places such as Hampi and other tourism spots, says Parameshwara

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Terming the rape of two women and a man's murder near Hampi as an unfortunate incident, Home Minister G. Parameshwara on Sunday said the government would take a re-look at safety measures at places of tourist interest across Karnataka as such incidents deter tourists from coming to the State.

"It is an unfortunate incident that should not have happened. While the government is trying to attract tourists from not only other States of India but also other countries, these kinds of incidents deter them [tourists] from visiting Karnataka and to such tourist places," the Home Minister told presspersons here on Sunday. The Police Department has been directed to deploy more personnel where tourists come in big numbers to ensure that such incidents are not repeated," he said, adding that patrolling in tourist places would be increased.

Dr. Parameshwara said, "Definitely, we are going to step up security in places such as Hampi or even other tourist places. We will have to take a re-look at the security measures in these places so that tourists can

G. Parameshwara

come, spend time, and return safely. We don't want this is kind of negative impact. We will try to brief tourists also and provide security."

The fingerprint matching being done by the police of people randomly moving around at night in Bengaluru to ascertain any criminal background would be extended to other places, he added.

Two women, including the owner of a homestay at Anegundi in Koppal district and an Israeli national, were allegedly raped by three men on the night of March 6 while three male tourists, including an U.S. national, were pushed into the Tungabhadra left bank canal. Of the three, two swam back to safety and the third tourist, a Odisha native, drowned.

Progress in case

He said that the victims had given their statement before the magistrate and further action would follow as per the law. Dr. Parameshwara said the diplomatic missions concerned would be intimated and the government would ensure the safety of the victims. "The foreign nationals will be brought to Bengaluru. They will be sent back on the condition that they would return when they are required," he said.

To a question if the homestay was unauthorised, the Home Minister said the victim, the homestay owner, has intimated that they had taken the homestay on lease. "Whether it was an unauthorised homestay or not will be known during the police investigation. If it is unauthorised, whatever action has to be initiated will be taken." Hailing from Tamil Nadu, homestay owner had been in Hampi area for more than four years now, he added. Dr. Parameshwara dismissed suggestions that there could be an involvement of drugs in this case.

Minister discloses victims' name

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Violating the norms of protecting the identity of the victims of sexual assault, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, during his media briefing on Sunday, read out the names of the victims of rape near Hampi.

Earlier, during another incident of rape in Mysuru, the then Home Minister Araga Jnanendra had come under attack after revealing the identity of the victim. In the past, the Supreme Court had taken exception to the identity of victims under Sections 376, 376A and others of the IPC being disclosed by public authorities.

Third accused arrested in Tamil Nadu

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The third accused in the Hampi case involving the rape of two women – a foreign tourist and a local homestay owner – and the murder of a male tourist was arrested on Sunday in Tamil Nadu, according to Kannada and Culture Minister and Koppal district in charge Shivaraj Tangadagi. With this, all the three accused involved in the case have been arrested.

The Minister told reporters in Koppal on Sunday that while two accused were arrested on Saturday, the third one, Sairam, was nabbed on Sunday.

"It is an unfortunate incident in which two women were allegedly raped and a male tourist from Odisha was killed over a trivial issue. The altercation that began with the accused demanding ₹100 for petrol and the tourists refusing it ended in the rape of women and the murder of a tourist. I have directed the police to tighten security in the area," Mr. Tangadagi said.

The Minister advised tourists not to go out in such remote areas during late nights not just because of criminals but also because of the presence of wild animals such as leopards and bears in the area.

The Koppal police, meanwhile, took the two accused to the crime scene as part of the investigation.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

Massage chairs more popular

More than recliner chairs, massage chairs (*pictured*) – which Speaker U.T. Khader has installed in the Legislative Assembly lounge – seem to be gaining popularity among the MLAs during the ongoing Budget session of the State legislature.

Many MLAs were seen getting massages during the session sitting on them. "In this chair, you can choose to enjoy a relaxing massage from legs to neck and get relief from back pain and tension headache. All our massage chairs are medically approved," claimed a company representative who was operating the electric-charged chairs. The chairs have been set up on a rental basis, and the price of the chair is around ₹4.5 lakh. The Speaker has also arranged for recliner chairs on a rental basis for the relaxation of the legislators during the lunch break. Complimentary breakfast and lunch have also been arranged for them. All this apparently to help boost attendance during the House proceedings.

Keen to enact the role of a Pandava

Congress MLA K.M. Shivalinege Gowda is keen to enact the role of one of the Pandavas, but not that of Karna, an important character in the epic *Mahabharata*.

When Legislative Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader announced the holding of Legislators' Day, many members of the Opposition BJP suggested that Mr. Gowda play the role of Karna.

Immediately, the Congress member stood up and said he would not play the part of Karna and he didn't want to be on the side of Duryodhana but play one of the Pandavas. Mr. Gowda, formerly with the JD(S), said he had played the role of Duryodhana in the past.

He suggested to the Speaker to include cultural events such as solo performances and singing competitions during the Legislators' Day to showcase the diverse talent of MLAs.

The Speaker said a checklist containing sports such as cricket, table tennis, shuttle badminton, and chess would be sent to the legislators and requested them to offer their preferences.

Whose time is up?

A clock that had stopped working in the Legislative Council led to banter between the ruling and Opposition members last week during the Budget session.

While JD(S) member S.L. Bhoje Gowda was speaking on the Governor's address to the joint session of the legislature, Chairman Basavaraj Horatti reminded him that he should complete his speech soon as others had to speak.

At this juncture, Mr. Gowda looked at the clock in front of him which was showing 4.35 p.m. He said he had just started speaking and would need more time.

At this point, realising that the clock had actually stopped, some BJP and JD(S) members told the ruling party members that their "time was not good" as the clock that had stopped functioning was on the wall of the treasury bench. The Congress members countered by saying that the clock facing them was showing the correct time, and this indicated that their "time was good".

A member from the Opposition said the stopped clock showed that the government had no money to even change the battery. As the discussion threatened to go on and on, the Chairman stepped in to steer the debate back on track.

Nagesh Prabhu
Afshan Yasmeen

'Check pollution of waterbodies at pilgrimage centres'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In the light of waterbodies near pilgrimage centres getting polluted, Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre has directed officials to act against the use of soap and shampoo and also stop pilgrims from discarding used clothes near them after bathing.

Mr. Khandre has asked the officials to take steps to ban the sale of soaps and shampoos within 500 m from the waterbodies such as rivers, streams, ponds, and temple *kalyanis*. Shampoo sachets and soaps are easily available near such waterbodies, he said and asked Forest Department officials to coordinate with officials of other departments to ensure action. He said people, out of superstitious beliefs, discard used clothes and piles of such clothes can be seen at many pilgrimage centres. The directive to officials said that it had been noted that half-used shampoo sachets and soaps and their covers, being thrown by pilgrims, eventually get into the waterbodies and pollute them.

Time has come to change State BJP leadership: MLA

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

B.P. Harish, BJP MLA and a prominent member of the party's rebel group, on Sunday maintained that the time had come for a change of leadership in the State BJP.

"I think the time has come for a change of leadership in the State BJP unit. That is the reason why party president B.Y. Vijayendra and his father and former Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa are going around organising Lingayat rallies. It seems they have got a feeling that the BJP high command is not with them. Mr. Yediyurappa and his children are up to their old tricks to retain power," Mr. Harish told reporters.

Community and politics

"I have been in politics for long and have seen that Mr. Yediyurappa has stayed in power by blackmailing the party high command. That is what he has done all through. When he had to resign following corruption allegations, he tried to delay it by organising Lingayat rallies and invited religious heads to address those rallies. But we are not like that. We do not use our community for our politics," he said.

To a query, he said he was not opposed to Mr. Yediyurappa, nor was he a

That is the reason why party president B.Y. Vijayendra and his father, B.S. Yediyurappa, are going around organising Lingayat rallies. It seems they have got a feeling that the BJP high command is not with them.

B.P. HARISH,
BJP MLA

supporter of Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, MLA. "I am not opposed to Mr. Yediyurappa or his sons per se. I am opposed to corruption and those involved in anti-party activities. I am opposed to leaders who are involved in match-fixing during elections to defeat their own party leaders and support those from the Opposition. That is why, we are confident that the high command will clean up the State BJP unit," he said.

Criticises State Budget

He criticised the State Budget by saying it was based on the policy of Muslim appeasement. "Looking at the Budget, I feel that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah is losing his balance of the mind," Mr. Harish said.

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Ph.: 08472/ 278675 Fax. : 08472 / 260776 E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/EE/TS-02/ 15th FC/SFC D.W/2024-25 Date: 07.03.2025

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION

No: 06/2024-25

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 07 tenders as per KPPP Portal 2.0 act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal in KW- 1,2&3 Tender bid documents under 15th Finance for the year 2023-24 cow, 15th Finance for the year 2024-25 cow, & SFC 2024-25 Drinking Water Commission scheme. The bid documents can be downloaded from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2) Estimate Sanction cost: **lowest amount Rs. 5.00 lakhs & Highest amount Rs.150.00 lakhs.** 3) EMD Value: **Lowest Rs. 2,700.00 & Highest Rs. 92,300.00,** 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: **21.03.2025 upto 11-00 am.** 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **21.03.2025 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **24.03.2025 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **25.03.2025 after 11:30 am.** 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1062/KSMC&A/2024-25

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone: 080-22265383
Website: www.kiadb.in email: Email: ceoem@kiadb.in

No. KIADB/COF/TL/21534/2024-25 **Dated: 07.03.2025**

Short term Tender notification inviting bids from Banks / Financial Institutions for sanction of Term Loan to Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board.

The Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) invite proposals/offers through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from Banks / Financial Institutions for sanction of Term Loan to KIADB towards cost of acquisition of land for formation of Industrial Area, providing basic infrastructure facilities in the Industrial Areas and implementation of water supply schemes. The aspiring Banks / Financial Institutions who have not registered in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal should register before participating through the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The copies of the Tender documents can be downloaded from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal consisting of qualification criteria along with terms and conditions of contract to be complied with.

The bids shall to be uploaded through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only. Last date for submission of bids is on or before **21st March 2025 up to 16.00 hrs.**

For details, viz registration, e-payment, user manual for bid submission, visit Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement Help Desk No.080-46010000/ 080-68948777.

Sd/-
Controller of Finance, KIADB

DIPR/CP/5553/Zen/2024-25

Government of Karnataka
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, DIVISION, CHITRADURGA.
No.EE:PWD:CTA:JE-1:Tender-37:2024-25 **Dated: 07.03.2025**
SHORTTERM E-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited from registered Contractors in KPWD for the following work through KPPP Portal as per standard tender documents rules.

Name of work: Two cover System: General: Head of Account: 5054-04-337-0-01-154 MDR Improvements: (1) Improvements and Asphalting of Jodichikkenahalli Yarehally MDR From Ch 11.70 to 14.00 Km in Selected reaches at Chitradurga Constituency Chitradurga Taluk (Working Ch 11.70 to 12.60 Km and 12.90 to 14.15 Km) (WL19540)/call-2. Estimate Cost Rs. 265.00 Lakhs. (2) Improvements and Asphalting of Guddadarangavvanahally to Rayanahally MDR From Ch 0.00 to 3.00 Km in Selected reaches at Chitradurga Constituency Chitradurga Taluk (Working Ch 0.00 to 3.09 Km) (WI.19359) /call-2. Estimate Cost Rs. 235.00 Lakhs. (3) Improvements and Asphalting to road Hiriyur-V.V.Pura road to Kolal via Kunikere, Beerenahalli, Gownahalli from Ch 2.00 to 3.00km and 6.00 to 11.00km in selected reaches in Hiriyur Taluk (Working Ch 2.40 to 2.90km, 6.00 to 7.00 km and 7.45 to 10.40km) (WI.19277)/ call-2. Estimate Cost Rs. 250.00 Lakhs.

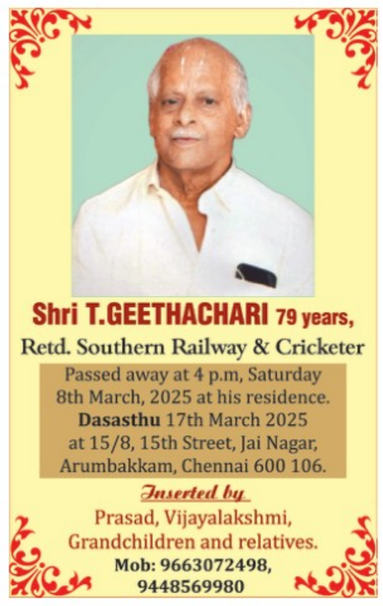
Tenders dates are as mentioned below: (1) Late Date & time for Tender Queries/ Clarifications: 21.03.2025 Time 17:30. (2) Last Date & time for receipt of tenders: 24.03.2025 Time 16:00. (3) Date & time for opening of Technical Bid: 25.03.2025 Time 16:15. (4) Date & time for opening of Financial Bid: 27.03.2025 Time 11:00.

Further details can be obtained from this office and H.P. Company helpline Numbers 080-25501216 and 080-25501227.

RO No. 667: DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2024-25 **Sd/- Executive Engineer**

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

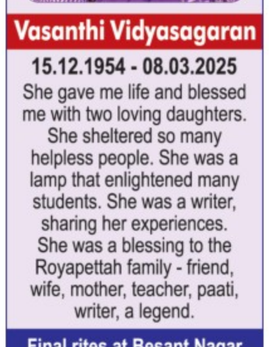
DEATH



Shri T.GEETHACHARI 79 years,
Retd. Southern Railway & Cricketer
Passed away at 4 p.m, Saturday 8th March, 2025 at his residence.
Dasasthu 17th March 2025 at 15/8, 15th Street, Jai Nagar, Arumbakkam, Chennai 600 106.
Inserted by
Prasad, Vijayalakshmi, Grandchildren and relatives.
Mob: 9663072498, 9448569980

DEATH

OBITUARY



Vasanthi Vidyasagaran
15.12.1954 - 08.03.2025
She gave me life and blessed me with two loving daughters. She sheltered so many helpless people. She was a lamp that enlightened many students. She was a writer, sharing her experiences. She was a blessing to the Royapettah family - friend, wife, mother, teacher, paati, writer, a legend.

Final rites at Besant Nagar on Monday 10.03.2025 at 10:00 am.

Mourned by
Dr. T. Vidyasagaran, Aishwarya Lakshmi, Nagulan, Thara Mrithula, Ajai Sundar, Adithi, Mayuri, Indira, Rudhra
20, Besant Road, Ganapathy Colony, Royapettah, Chennai - 600014.
Phone : +91 9841074344

OBITUARY

Born: **22-10-1949** Died: **09-03-2025**

Dr.V.PARI
(Retired Professor of General Surgery, Madras Medical College)
beloved son of the late Mu. Varadarajan, passed away peacefully
Deeply mourned by
M. Janakiraman & Family
Anna Nagar, Chennai.

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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How potable water need not be wasted on BBMP parks and home gardens

Looking back at last year's water crisis, BWSSB recently announced a ban on using drinking water for non-essential activities as the city is gearing up for a scorching summer

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

According to a recent Indian Institute of Science-Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (IISc-BWSSB) collaborative study, groundwater table on the outskirts of the city has fallen by at least 10 to 15 metres this year, and the situation may worsen during peak pre-monsoon months of March and April. This triggered the BWSSB to recently announce a ban on using drinking water for non-essential activities as the city is gearing up for a scorching summer.

The ban, effective immediately, prohibits the use of potable water for gardening, car washing, swimming pools, and construction. The BWSSB said that violators would face a ₹5,000 fine, with an additional ₹500 daily for repeat offenses. Amid the BWSSB's ban, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) recently announced that it would be using non-potable water for all its parks around the city.

The BBMP chief announced that the civic body plans to acquire treated sewage water from the BWSSB to maintain its 1,280 parks across Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Treated water

A couple of days ago, during a meeting at the BBMP head office, the BBMP chief announced that the BBMP plans to acquire treated sewage water from the BWSSB to maintain its 1,280 parks across Bengaluru. Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath directed officials to submit a report on conditions of borewell in BBMP-managed parks and called for immediate water supply arrangements at parks that had partially working or dried up borewells.

"With summer approaching, adequate water supply is crucial for maintaining parks, lakes, and median plantations. Officials have been instructed to assess the exact water requirement, and the number of tankers needed and make the necessary arrangements at the earliest," Giri Nath said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Chandrashekhar M.R., Deputy Director of BBMP's Horticulture Department, said that the BBMP is coordinating with the BWSSB to map parks to the nearest sewage treatment plants (STPs) for efficient water distribution. "The BWSSB has asked the BBMP's Horticulture Department to assess demand, and we will be giving the report to them within a week. Based on our report, the BWSSB will map parks to STPs and supply water. As of now we have identified around 120 parks that need immediate attention and mapping to STPs. However, we will have the complete data of parks that need supervision and connection to treated water within a week's time." Chandrashekhar added that along with the parks, the treated water from STPs will also be used to water plants, bushes and trees on medians and pavements on the roads.

Rudraiah M., a regular walker at a park in B.T.M. Layout, said that it was an appreciable move. "Last summer we noticed that parks around the area went very dry. There was a shortage of water for many residents in the area, as borewells had dried up. Watering parks was not even an option due to the shortage. Using treated water will help save water for human consumption and also contribute to ground water levels," he said.

However, Raghu S., a resident of Thalgatpura, cautioned that water must be treated rightly or could cause discomfort to regular walkers. "We used to use treated water for the garden area of our apartment for a long time. However, the stench was really bad, and we were forced to stop. This was because our STP could treat sewage water only to an extent. The BBMP or BWSSB must make sure the sewage water is treated well," he argued.

Chandrashekhar M.R., Deputy Director of BBMP's Horticulture Department, said that the civic body is coordinating with the BWSSB to map parks to the nearest sewage treatment plants for efficient water distribution. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sushma Rao's home garden that uses used water.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Home gardeners

While the BBMP is gearing up to use treated water in water parks, home gardeners from around the city said that they have been using innovative methods and using recycled water for their gardens.

"We have found an innovative way to repurpose around 600 litres of RO wastewater daily which we use for gardening and other purposes, and have stuck to the method since," said Rohini Ghose, secretary of the Aristocrat Apartments association in Kasturinagar. "Being an older apartment complex, installing new pipelines wasn't feasible, so we conducted a survey last summer and discovered that at least 70 of our 145 RO units could collectively generate about 10 litres of wastewater each day.

To make collection easier, we provided residents with 10-litre jerry cans, which they fill and place outside their homes. The water is then transferred into two 200-litre drums fitted with taps and a hose for practical use in car washing, mopping, gardening, and even the swimming pool. We had a lab test confirming that our water quality, including RO reject water, meets WHO standards, allowing us to safely integrate it into our daily needs apart from drinking and cooking," she explained.

Sushma Rao a resident of Poornapragna Layout, said that her family uses used water for their gardens. "When we wash vegetables, fruits and non-greasy utensils without soap, we do not let the water go down the drain through the sink. Most of the water is collected in a tub, which is later used for watering plants in our garden. The water used for cooking or boiling rice, lentils or vegetables is also collected in the same tub, which is also rich in nutrients and helps the plants grow better," she explained. Sushma said that her family also has a rainwater harvesting system with two tanks, which helps them restore their ground water levels throughout the year, and there is hardly any shortage during the summer.

Ananya Iyer, a resident of Jayanagar, shared how her family has found a practical way to use non-potable water for their garden. "We have placed a bucket near our kitchen sink to collect water used for rinsing vegetables, fruits, and pulses. Instead of letting it go down the drain, we store it in a large bucket and use a small pump to distribute it to our garden plants," she explained. Ananya added that they also collect RO reject water in a drum, which is later diluted and used for watering hardy plants like shrubs and trees. "Cauvery water is strictly used in our house only for drinking. These simple steps have helped us reduce wastage and keep our garden thriving without depending entirely on fresh water," she said.

Symposium on contributions of Devaraj Urs hosted

Ravi D. Channannavar and others inauguring the symposium.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bengaluru City University (BCU), in collaboration with the Other Backward Classes and Minority Cell of the university, organised a one-day symposium on "Legacy of Social Reforms and Progress: Contributions of D. Devaraj Urs to Governance" earlier this week. The event highlighted the transformative role played by former Chief Minister the late D. Devaraj Urs in fostering social justice and development in Karnataka. Writer and critic Banjagere Jayapraksh emphasised Urs's pivotal role in empowering marginalised communities and leading the State towards progress, despite the historical challenges and the shadow of the Emergency. He pointed out Urs's landmark achievements in land reforms and the upliftment of backward classes.

Ravi D. Channannavar, IAS Officer, acknowledged Urs's contributions, particularly in renaming the State as Karnataka and making Kannada the administrative language. The symposium was presided over by BCU Vice Chancellor Lingaraja Gandhi, who spoke about celebrating Urs's lasting impact on the State's governance and social reforms.

Innovation challenge unites 500-plus students to develop scalable solutions

The event aims to bridge educational gaps and encourage leadership among students

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

eVidyaloka, an NGO working in rural education in India, recently organised its annual National Student Innovation Challenge (NSIC), a competition aimed at empowering students in grades six, seven, and eight to develop and implement innovative solutions that drive real change in their communities.

The event, held at the LTIMindtree campus in Hebbal, Bengaluru, supported eVidyaloka's efforts to bridge educational gaps and encourage leadership among students.

Finalist teams, each comprising a mix of rural and urban students, presented their innovative solutions to a panel of jury members, highlighting real-world solutions to the challenges of their communities. Aligned with the UN SDGs, the initiative brings together, "rural and urban students as a team to address real-world challenges. It promotes creativity, research-based learning, and teamwork while helping students develop leadership and social-emotional skills," said a press release.

The initiative brings together rural and urban students as a team to address real-world challenges.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Swapna Ramkumar, Programme Head of NSIC at eVidyaloka, provided insights into the programme's impact. "It's truly inspiring to see young changemakers coming together, breaking barriers, and taking the initiative to tackle important community challenges head-on," said the release.

Students who participated at the National Student Innovation Challenge. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The National Student Innovation Challenge is about more than just fostering creativity–it's about instilling a sense of responsibility and empowering student. We are shaping a future where innovation drives social transformation," added Brinda Poornapragna, CEO, eVidyalok.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 10, 1975

PU Education Board Plans to Improve Facilities

Bangalore, March 9: The Pre-University Education Board has proposed to implement a few schemes during 1975-76 to provide better teaching and examination facilities to students and also better administration of the junior colleges. The emphasis during the coming year will be on consolidation of the pre university education facilities already created in 166 taluks. Only nine taluks do not have pre university education facilities. Though the broad policy of the Government is not to encourage new colleges, it might not be averse to permit new junior colleges where they are absolutely necessary. There is a proposal to start two divisional offices, one in Belgaum or Gulbarga and the other in Mangalore or Mysore for inspection

Breach of Privilege by Police: Committee's Finding

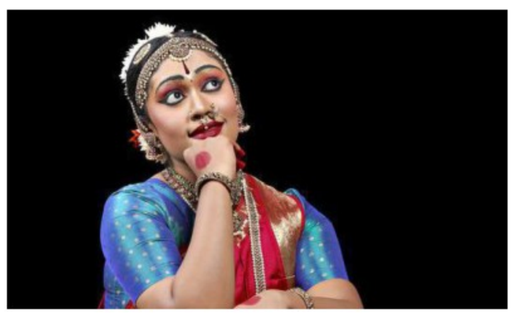
Bangalore, March 9: The privileges committee of the Legislative Council has held that the police had committed a breach of privilege in not informing the Chairman of the Council about the detention of an independent member of the House, Mr. M. Sathyanarayana Rao at Mysore, on July 26, 1974.

However, in view of the apology tendered by the Sub Inspector of Police of Devaraja Police Station in Mysore City, the committee has not recommended any further action. It has held that the breach of privilege was committed out of ignorance.

CITYBEATS

Weave your way

ONGOING
The National Silk Expo, said to be India's largest cotton and silk expo, is holding an ongoing exhibition-and-sale that concludes on March 16. Available at the venue are traditional, lifestyle and festival products, with Ugadi special and wedding collections. Entry is free.
At Sindhur Convention Center, JP Nagar, Ring Road. Call 9412258826 for details.



Dance debut

MARCH 16
The Usshas Foundation will present the Bharatanatyam rangapravesha of Kirtana S, who trained under Kalaimamani and Sangeetha Kaliban on March 16. Veena Murthy Vijay, director of Sri Raja Rajeshwaru Kala Niketan, and actor Roopika are the chief guests.
At Sri Krishnadevaraya Kalamandira, Sankey Road. From 6pm, open to all.

A summer oasis

ONGOING
Naturals Ice Cream has launched a new flavour. Called Malai Khurma, this chilled treat has been launched as a special to mark the month of Ramadan. Here, the customary sheer-khurma has been transformed into a rich, royal ice cream, with a fusion of milk, sugar, dry fruits, cardamom powder and saffron.
Available across all Naturals outlets in India.

Night at the museum

Gear up for a special Sichuan cuisine pop-up by Má Là Kitchen Supper Club. This is the first edition of the pop-up and will be a monthly exploration of experiential menus by chefs across the country.
On March 12 at Dali & Gala, Museum Road. Call 88842 44988 for details.

More women, and occasionally men, of all ages are discovering the benefits of pole dancing, which builds strength, endurance and agility. Meet teachers and students from across the country who are redefining this performance art.

Pole star

Aathira Haridas

It is six in the morning. Chennai is just waking up. But the spacious, well-lit studio called The Pole Camp on Harrington Road is already abuzz with activity. Students of all ages, from 12 to late 40s, are hovering about the studio to start class. After the stretches, warm up routines and conditioning, they learn new tricks and dance with their "partner" – the pole.

For Nikita S Ganesh, a student of class VIII who learns the art form at dancer and pole artiste Anusha Swamy's studio The Pole Camp, it all started with a workshop for children. "I had immense fun that day. That got me hooked," she says. That was two years ago, when she was 10. "I have been pole dancing for two years now. It makes me feel stronger and more confident. My mom and sister also learn this art form," smiles the 12-year-old.

Pole dance is the new kid on the block in the fitness realm. It has something for everyone.

The pole competition, the first such competition in India, was organised by Nupur Chaudhuri (The Pole School India) in association with Calisthenics Girls India. It was held in Bengaluru in 2024 and saw around 20 participants in beginner and intermediate categories from Pune, Bengaluru, and Chennai.

Years ago, when Anusha enrolled for a pole dance class while on a vacation in Melbourne, little did she realise that she would be starting a whole new movement in Chennai.

"I saw that a pole dance class was happening nearby and I wanted to see how much I could observe and absorb," says Anusha who started learning classical dance when she was six.

It was in her late 20s that pole art entered her life. And even after she came back to India, the thought never left her. "I was still thinking about pole dance," she says. And then her best friend gifted her a pole and the rest, shall we say, has been history.

Pune-based Nupur Chaudhuri who runs The Pole School India, was introduced to pole when she went to Australia to study for a Master's in Journalism and Mass Communication Fascinated by the acrobatics, at a club, she decided to learn pole someday.

"I was awestruck, seeing them hanging upside down etc. The pole artistes made it look so beautiful but there was so much work behind it. I told myself that one day I will learn it," she says. Years later, she set up her own studio, The Pole School India (formerly called 4Poles Pune) in Pune in December 2019. "I still remember my first spin and how I fell in love with my body, myself and pole. I immersed myself in learning and attended pole camps abroad," she says.

Pole as fitness

Rebecca Zodingpuii (Becky Zoding) who runs Mirrors Studio in Bengaluru took up pole dancing by chance. "I had no fitness background earlier in my life," recalls Becky. Then she picked up yoga, aerial art and eventually pole. The 42-year-old has trained more than 400 students now.

Back in 2019, Payal Jain, who now resides in Bengaluru, started pole for fitness. "I had tried gymming earlier but it felt monotonous, so I chose pole, which was a great way to stay fit and dance. I now have pole classes twice a week," says Payal, adding "I have made significant progress in the gym thanks to pole, be it with lifting weights or getting better at push ups."

A Venkataganesh, an orthopaedic manual therapist and a myofascial therapist with 25 years of experience in treating sports injuries says that pole can pave the way for sound health in a person. "Pole art invokes a lot of discipline. To get on the pole, even a beginner will knowingly or unknowingly learn to activate the deep core muscles. It builds strength, endurance, coordination, balance, power, agility, etc.," says Venkataganesh who runs his clinic Venkat's Yoga and Physio in Chennai.

Every sport or fitness activity, if overdone or underdone without recovery causes injuries, he says. "When this happens, we are building up micro injuries within ourselves. Pole isn't an exception. If you are using only your right hand to suspend all through then you are building up strain. If you do recovery activities, including stretching and sleep, you will be fine," he adds.

According to Anusha, pole dancing can be a great start to a person's fitness journey. "Pole is a sport and you get stronger, fit and flexible. As you progress, you might even join a gym to build more strength so that you can crack advanced moves," she says.

Body positivity

Pole has helped many people embrace their body better, all coaches agree. "When they join, some of them are concerned about the way their body looks. Once they start poling, they enjoy it, start loving themselves and understand that weight doesn't matter," says Becky.

At 44, Kajal Kiran is at her most confident. Kajal, who works as a director at an audit firm has been poling for 1.5 years now. "I would say that I found pole at my right age. Ever since I started poling, I have seen a dramatic shift in my energy. I have gained strength and I feel less fatigued," says Kajal, a student of Becky.

Vidhi Bhatt, India lead Client Communication and spokesperson of X- Pole India, a leading manufacturer in the industry, says that pole fitness is gaining widespread acceptance as a fun and versatile way to stay fit. "The versatility of pole fitness is a major draw, engaging all major muscle groups while promoting flexibility and strength," says Vidhi.

Since X-Pole's launch in India, pole installations at home and studio have also picked up pace. According to Vidhi, there are around 12 to 15 studios in India that are fully equipped with X-poles and Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai and Hyderabad, are leading the way in home pole installations. Both men and women are investing in home poles to save time and enhance their self-practice session at the comfort of their home says Vidhi, adding that X-pole's poles are priced between ₹19,000 to ₹1.5 lakh.

While pole classes are mostly attended by women, men too have been joining in. When Sarosh Vandrewalla, a pilot, started his pole journey, his family could not have been more supportive. "My mom was ecstatic when she saw my first pole video and my sister also has been my cheerleader," says 34-year-old Sarosh from Pune, a student of Nupur. He adds, "There was a little name calling and teasing which was uncomfortable at first but then you have to turn a deaf ear to other people's judgements."

Are there any prerequisites to learning this dance form? Anusha says, "None at all, that's something you develop with time and be consistent and patient while doing so," she says.

Pole position
This health and fitness art form is seeing takers of all ages and sexes.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Music for the soul

Priyamedha Dutta

Eashwar Subramanian's latest EP *The Reclusive Mural* explores grief and solitude, building on a minimalist style of ambient music with an engaging mix of piano, strings and synths that transports listeners to a soothing environment.

The EP opens with 'Joy of Being' – a track that captures the beauty of being alive, with soundscapes that blend a gentle piano-based melody, with violin sections. The standalone melody is embellished with rhythms of the tabla, taking the listener to an oasis of lush, green lands and gentle breezes.

Hailing from Bengaluru, Eashwar has added more than 500 compositions to his Soundcloud page, over the past five years. He considers all his pieces to be sonic experiments that vary from monochrome ambient soundscapes to rich, lush soundscapes showcasing a global confluence of Asian, Middle Eastern and Western tones as well as Indian ragas.

Eashwar shares his journey as an ambient music producer and the struggles of ambient music artistes in India.

Eashwar's first album *Ambient Hamlet*, which released in 2018, debuted at #10 on the Apple Music Indian Independent list. It was an album that came out from a deeply personal space. "That was the time when I was going through a personal crisis and I wanted to channelise my energy into something that would bring me peace; my music became my safe space and something that made me happy."

Straight from the heart
Eashwar Subramanian.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

When Eashwar started producing ambient music, his main aim was to create pieces devoid of conventional musical grammar and structure. "For me, creating music in an ambient way is more about listening to my heart rather than focusing on the theoretical aspects of music. It all starts with an idea and what kind of a mental state I am in – that evolves or translates into the music that I make."

Despite its popularity the world over, ambient music in India has been relegated to a certain audience, says Eashwar. "We have ambient music in our classical instrumental traditions, whether Hindustani or Carnatic, which focus on minimal instrumentation. Unfortunately, if you ask the present generation, they would probably be more interested in popular contemporary music."

Eashwar notes that ambient music in India suffers from poor marketing, and hence is yet to gain momentum. "Ambient music doesn't have a market here because people generally assume that it is in a monochromatic space, as unlike traditional popular music, it lacks melody."

However, he does agree that in recent times there has been an audience for it, especially among those who have discovered its therapeutic side.

Yet, for independent artistes in this field it is a long struggle for recognition.

Pressing matters

With just five years remaining to define the next set of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), an urgent conversation on their future is set to take place in the city. Bangalore International Centre (BIC) will host a public lecture as part of the Let's Talk Climate Change series, featuring leading industry experts.

The session will be led by Christine Fürst, a forest scientist and professor of Sustainable Landscape Development at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, and Harini Nagendra, Director of Research at Azim Premji University's School of Climate Change and Sustainability.

Their discussion will focus on lessons learned from implementing the SDGs in the Global South, challenges in balancing socio-economic and ecological priorities, and the need for science-driven policy.

Christine, a renowned expert in land-use systems and participatory decision-making, will bring insights from her research across West Africa, Latin America, and South Asia.

Harini, an urban ecologist and acclaimed author, will contribute her expertise on climate resilience and sustainability in Indian cities.

As global cooperation becomes increasingly crucial, the lecture will explore what improvements can be made in integrating scientific knowledge into policy frameworks.

The conversation is particularly relevant as some of the current SDGs are at risk of not being achieved due to contradictions, political challenges, and gaps in knowledge-based policymaking.

On March 10, 6.30pm to 8pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. The event is free to attend on an RSVP, a first-come, first-seated basis.

Delimitation: DMK Ministers and MPs to visit seven States to muster support

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin with DMK MPs T.R. Baalu, Kanimozhi and others at a meeting in Chennai on Sunday. ANI

As part of its efforts to build a momentum against a likely population-based delimitation exercise, the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu has decided to send Ministers and MPs to seven States to muster support from other political parties for its efforts.

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin had written to the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Odisha, West Bengal, and Punjab and leaders of political parties that delimitation based on the Census may hurt these States in safeguarding their representation in the Lok Sabha.

On Sunday, a meeting of party MPs chaired by Mr. Stalin, who heads the DMK, decided to work closely not only with the MPs of the INDIA bloc but also with all those who are committed to safeguarding democracy, to protect the rights of States in the delimitation exercise, which is likely to begin next year. The MPs will highlight the issue in the Parliament session beginning Monday. Kanimozhi, Lok Sabha member, will coordinate the efforts.

A resolution adopted in the meeting alleged that the BJP-led Union government, which was imposing a three-language formula to introduce Hindi in school education while denying Tamil Nadu its share in allocation of funds, was not giving a proper answer to the question on delimitation. "Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has taken up the issue as he has realised the problems faced by the southern States. We will stand by the Chief Minister in his efforts to protect the number of Lok Sabha seats in Tamil Nadu and its existing per cent in the share of seats," the resolution said.

Mr. Stalin called for convening a meeting of MPs from Tamil Nadu to elicit their opinion.

According to party sources, State Finance Minister Thangam Thennarasu and DMK Parliamentary Party leader Kanimozhi will meet West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, CPI(M) leaders Mohamed Sali, secretary of the State unit of the CPI(M) and others.

Municipal Administration Minister K.N. Nehru and Rajya Sabha MP N.R. Elango will visit Telangana as part of the party's efforts to meet Chief Ministers and leaders of various political parties, including Asaduddin Owaisi of the All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM).

Public Works Department (PWD) Minister E.V. Velu and Rajya Sabha member P. Wilson are slated to meet N. Chandrababu Naidu, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and other leaders. Forests Minister K. Ponmudy and Rajya Sabha member T.R. Abdulla have been given the responsibility of meeting the Chief Minister of Karnataka and other leaders.

Information Technology Minister P.T.R. Thiagarajan and South Chennai MP Sumathi, aka, Thamizhachi Thangapandian will visit Kerala and meet Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and other leaders. Law Minister S. Regupathy and Rajya Sabha member Kanimozhi Somu will visit AAP-ruled Punjab. Industries Minister T.R.B. Raaja, along with Central Chennai MP Dayanidhi Maran, will meet former Odisha Chief Minister Navin Patnaik and Congress leader Bhatka Charan Das, among others.

After weeks of search, rescue team recovers one body from tunnel

Eight persons trapped under debris when roof of SLBC tunnel collapsed on February 22; cadaver sniffer dogs from Kerala identify crucial point

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Animal assistance: The cadaver sniffer dog squad from Kerala arrives for the rescue operation in Nagarkurnool on Sunday. PTI

Over 15 days after eight persons were trapped after a portion of the roof of the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel collapsed near Domalapenta village in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana on February 22, rescue agencies recovered the body of one of them on Sunday evening.

Officials heading the rescue operation said the body was found deep under debris and was being brought out of the tunnel to be taken to hospital for medical and legal formalities and identification.

Help from sniffer dogs

The rat-hole miners from Uttarakhand and miners from Singareni Collieries, with the help of excavators, recovered the body based on the point identified by a cadaver sniffer dog squad from Kerala.

The rescue teams were engaged in digging work at one more point identified by the sniffer dog squad, the officials said.

They expressed hope that more bodies would be recovered soon based on the leads provided by the sniffer dogs and information from the ground probing radar scans provided by the National Geophysical Research Institute.

Sources in the Irrigation Department said the rescue agencies took up digging after a coordination meeting. The debris removal, including mud and parts of the tunnel boring machine (TBM), from now on involves a high level of risk. The large amount of muck in the last 50 to 70 metres of the tunnel poses a challenge.

The technicians from South Central Railway (SCR) have cut into pieces the damaged parts of the tunnel boring machine (TBM) for over 60 metres of its total length of 132.5 metres, paving the way for rescue agencies to take up the process for tracing the trapped persons in that area.

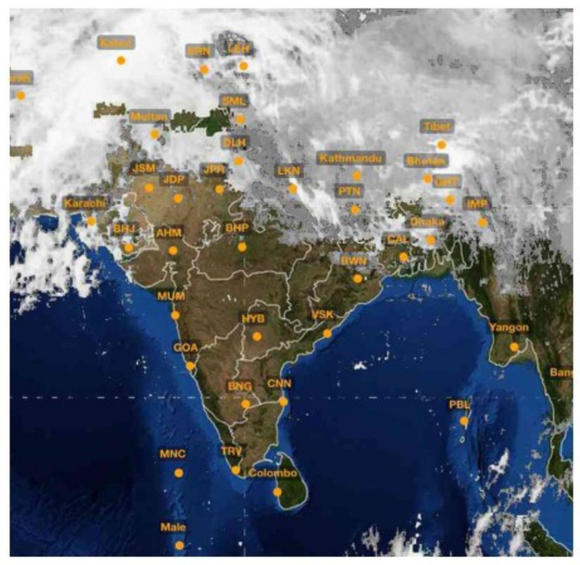
Sources said the agencies deployed the third mini-excavator, or earthmover, on Sunday to speed up the work to trace human remains at the two specific points identified by the dogs.

The last 50 to 70 metres of the tunnel is said to be still filled with 3 to 9 metres deep mud and other debris, where the head portion of the TBM is buried.

The area was too slushy to be handled by the rescue personnel as entering it could pose a high risk of theirs getting trapped and sinking in the slush.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Thunderstorm with lightning likely in Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit, Himachal Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal. Heat Wave Conditions very likely at isolated places over Konkan and Goa and Gujarat. Hot and Humid conditions very likely at isolated places over Coastal Karnataka.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.6	18.6	Kozhikode	—	36.0	27.4
Ahmedabad	—	38.7	21.0	Kurnool	—	39.5	22.7
Aizawl	—	30.2	14.8	Lucknow	—	32.1	13.2
Allahabad	—	34.4	12.6	Madurai	—	36.1	24.1
Bengaluru	—	34.1	18.0	Mangaluru	—	33.6	25.0
Bhopal	—	34.5	17.5	Mumbai	—	31.4	23.0
Bhubaneswar	—	34.0	21.3	Mysuru	—	35.6	—
Chandigarh	—	29.9	10.9	New Delhi	—	31.9	13.2
Chennai	—	33.0	22.3	Patna	—	31.2	17.0
Coimbatore	—	36.5	24.0	Port Blair	—	31.4	25.7
Dehradun	—	28.1	12.0	Puducherry	—	32.4	22.4
Gangtok	2.0	14.0	8.2	Pune	—	38.5	20.3
Goa	—	31.4	24.1	Raipur	—	36.2	19.2
Guwahati	—	29.5	16.0	Ranchi	—	31.6	14.5
Hubballi	—	39.0	22.0	Shillong	—	—	—
Hyderabad	—	37.9	19.2	Shimla	—	21.7	10.0
Imphal	—	27.0	17.0	Srinagar	—	16.1	2.2
Jaipur	—	33.3	18.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	25.2
Kochi	—	32.4	27.8	Tiruchi	—	35.1	21.6
Kohima	—	21.6	11.6	Vijayawada	—	34.4	22.6
Kolkata	—	32.8	22.1	Visakhapatnam	—	32.7	24.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.94	114	32	281	213	
Bengaluru	8	29	52	178	115	
Chennai	4	10	33	59	108	
Delhi	.14	73	22	250	318	
Hyderabad	.17	20	33	125	131	
Kolkata	4	14	16	116	111	
Lucknow	.14	86	50	232	193	
Mumbai	.26	34	17	68	104	
Pune	—	142	62	208	133	
Visakhapatnam	9	45	18	53	85	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Hajipur, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 294 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Maihar, Madhya Pradesh recorded a healthy AQI score of 30

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Auction Notification
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites bidders to participate in the E-Auction for the following works:

E-Auction Catalogue No.: VSG-TW-PKG25-2025 Dated 17.03.2025
Name of the work with its location
Contracts for Two Wheeler packing at parcel office of Vasco Railway Station.
Date & Time of Start & Close of E-Auction: **From 11:00 Hrs. to 11:30 Hrs. on 17.03.2025**

E-Auction Catalogue No.: RCR-BGM-2025 Dated 18.03.2025
Name of the work with its location
Setting up Rail Coach Restaurant at Belagavi (BGM) Railway Station Over Hubballi Division for a period of Five years.
Date & Time of Start & Close of E-Auction: **From 11:00 Hrs. to 11:30 Hrs. on 18.03.2025**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in (E-Auction Portal)
Senior Divisional Commercial Manager/ Hubballi
PUB/825/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned Government of Karnataka undertaking)
Office of the Chief Engineer (Operations), IT Cell, Corporate Office, GESCOM,
CIN:U4010KA2002SGC030436 Web Site :www.gescom.karnatakagov.in E-mail: eeitgescom@gmail.com
No: GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(COMM/IT)/EEE(IT)/2024-25/70135-164 Date: 07-03-2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP Portal Mode only)
Gulbarga Electricity Supply Company Ltd., Gulbarga invites tender on total turnkey basis frome eligible bidders through KPPP portal for "Selection of vendor for opening Retail Outlets for sale of Smart Meters on Rate Contract Basis to the Prospective Consumers for arranging Power Supply to New Connections (including Temporary Connections) for a period of 5 years in GESCOM Jurisdiction." on rate contract basis.
1) Tender Enquiry No. : **GESCOM/CEE/SEE/EE/2024-25/IT31,** 2) Name of Company : **GESCOM**
The bid documents will be available in kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **12/03/2025**.
The prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.
Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., Operations, Corporate Office GESCOM, Kalaburgi
DIPR/Kalaburagi/1065/KSMC&A/2024-25

KARNATAKA GOVERNMENT STOCK (SECURITIES)
Vidhana Soudha, Bengaluru
No: FD 01 BMB 2024 **Dated: 07.03.2025**
NOTICE
1. Aggregate Amount : Total Rs.2000 crore (Re-issues:Rs.2000 crore)
2. Method of Issue : By auction, through PDO, RBI, Mumbai (Fort)
3. Date of auction : March 11, 2025
Government of Karnataka invites subscription to the above securities. Copies of the Notification and Application forms may be obtained from PDO, RBI, Bangalore. Non-competitive bidding facility has been introduced by RBI to encourage participation of retail investors. The Government stock up to 10% of the notified amount of the sale will be allotted to eligible individuals and institutions. Sample Tender Forms and the revised scheme of Non-competitive bidding facility is available on the website **www.rbi.org.in.**
Sd/- (Dr. P.C Jaffer) Secretary to Government (Budget & Resources), Finance Department
DIPR/CP/5513/Zen/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 60/2024 Dated: 03.03.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L8255216	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of EOT Crane of 10T Capaciy with Auxiliary Hoist of 3T Capacity at Diesel Loco Shed / Krishnarajapuram. **(Qty: 2 Nos.)**
	Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 07.04.2025**
L8255347	Supply, Testing and Commissioning (Including all Connections & Dressing without Loading), set of Roof Mounting AC Package Units (RMPU) Type-I for LHB EOG Coaches. **(Qty: 5 Sets)**
	Last date for Submission/Tender Due on: **Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 01.04.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/826/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Bengaluru**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Commission, No.1, Seshadri Road, Bangalore-560001
No. DoA/e-Gov/CUG/Tender/2024-25 **Date: 05.03.2025**
Tender Notification
The Department of Agriculture has established 742 Raitha Samparka Kendras (RSK), on each Hobli, to provide services and information required by the farmers. The Agricul Department desires to provide Closed User Group Mobile Telephone Services. With purpose of providing relevant, cost-effective, timely, responsive and accurate information services to the farmers to enable efficient communication with/between the officers of Department and for timely transfer of information. DoA invites the "Proposals" from interested telecom service providers ("Bidders") for providing 1+1 Closed User Group Telephone Services, through e-procurement portal in accordance with the Bid Document. The Bid document containing instructions to Bidders, criteria for qualification and criteria for evaluation may be downloaded from the e-Procurement Website of Government of Karnataka ("GoK") viz. **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** and the Proposals shall be submitted as per the provisions of the tender document.
Important Details: Bid Publishing Date: 07.03.2025, Bid submission closing date: 07.04.2025, Opening of bid documents: 09.04.2025, Bid Security: Rs. 3 lakhs (Rupees Three Lakhs Only).
Project Proponent: Department of Agriculture, GoK
Contact Person: Shri. Manju A C, Deputy Director of Agriculture (e-Gov), Address: Department of Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, Sheshadri Rd, Bangalore-01, Phone: 8277929834, Email: agri.kar2022@gmail.com.
Sd/- Director of Agriculture & Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/CP/SSC/5556/2024-25

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME
I, M Srinivasarao S.O M Anjaiah R/O H. No. 64, Rupanagudi Road, Vigneshwara Camp, Tolamamidi, Kammarchedu, Bellary (Karnataka) have changed the name of my minor daughter M Dhanushree aged 16 years and she shall hereafter be known as M DHITYA.
I, DEVENDRA Singh F/O 18018009M. NK Manish Singh Kala (Serving in Army Digital Mapping centre Bangalore-560033) have changed my name from Devendra Singh Kala to Devendra Singh vide affidavit Dt 07-03-2025, before Notary Uday Kumar .K. Bangaluru- 560024.
I, MUNNI Devi M/O 18018009M, NK Manish Singh Kala (Serving in Army Digital Mapping centre Bangalore-560033) have changed my name from Munni Kala to Munni Devi vide affidavit Dt 07-03-2025, before Notary Uday Kumar .K. Bangaluru- 560024

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE DISTRICT JUDGE, CHENGALPATTU
(Probate O.P. No. 32/2025 under the Indian Succession Act, 1925)
A petition has been filed by **Mrs. Preetha Raj** for the grant of probate of the **WILL dated 12.10.2012** executed by **Late I.I. Rajan**, S/o. E.K. Ittaman, who passed away on **09.01.2017**. The case is posted for hearing on **21.03.2025 at 10:30 AM** before the Hon'ble District Judge, Chengalpattu.
Any objections may be submitted in person or through an advocate on the said date, failing which orders will be passed based on the petition.
Schedule of property
All that piece and parcel .comprised in Survey No.177/7 at Plot No. 58, New Door No. 10, Balakrishnapuram IV Street, Adambakkam, Chennai – 600 088
Petitioner:
Mrs. Preetha Raj, D/o. Late I.I. Rajan
Address: Plot No. 12, Raghava Avenue, Balaji Nagar, 5th Street, Adambakkam, Chennai – 600 088
Petitioner's Advocate
S. Anand, MBA, ML , N. Alamelu Mangai, M.Com, B.L., 372, Addl. Law Chambers, High Court Buildings, Chennai -600104

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) Bengaluru Celebrates 57th Foundation Day

Recently SJIM marked its 57th Foundation Day with a grand celebration on campus. Mr. Emmanuel David, former Director of Tata Management Training Center, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In his address, he emphasized the importance of integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) with the institution's core values of Magis, inclusivity, ethical conduct, and social concern. As part of the celebrations, Hasiru Dala Innovations was conferred with the SJIM Eminent Social Entrepreneur Award of the Year. Meritorious students were felicitated. Presiding over the function, Fr. Daniel Fernandes SJ encouraged the students to lead lives driven by passion and purpose. The Director, Rev. Dr. Manoj D'Souza SJ, welcomed the gathering and reflected on SJIM's rich legacy and its continued contribution to society. The event was a testament to SJIM's commitment to nurturing socially responsible leaders while embracing technological advancements.egde, Dr. Samanvitha were present on the occasion.

SAVE VARTHUR LAKE – KEEP IT NATURAL Awareness Drive to Restore Varthur Lake by Geetha Priya

Geetha Priya, co-founder & VC of Krupanidhi Group of Institutions took a significant step towards environmental conservation with an awareness drive titled "Save Varthur Lake - Keep it Natural," at Varthur Lake. The initiative aimed to bring attention to the lake's deteriorating condition and advocate for its restoration through sustainable interventions. The event was inaugurated by Sri. Suresh Heblikar, a National Film Award-winning actor, director, and environmentalist, who spoke about the ecological importance of Bengaluru's lakes and the necessity of community-driven conservation efforts. Accompanied by other dignitaries, they actively engaged with students, volunteers, and local residents, shedding light on the challenges facing Varthur Lake and the potential solutions for its revival. Geetha Priya addressed a pressing concern, stating: Varthur Lake is facing severe sewage pollution due to untreated sewage, industrial effluents, and agricultural runoff and their goal is to submit a memorandum and a signature campaign to the authorities, urging them to implement rejuvenation measures such as desilting, dredging, and wastewater treatment. The event included a lake clean-up drive, a tree plantation initiative, and an interactive discussion on environmental sustainability. This initiative by Geetha Priya is commendable and should serve as an example for other institutions." This campaign is a crucial step towards environmental sustainability, urging citizens to take responsibility for preserving their local water bodies. Geetha Priya remains committed to fostering awareness and encouraging eco-friendly practices for a healthier and greener future.

Christ University's initiative "Suvarna Karnataka Abhiyaan,"

Marsur Gram Panchayat has achieved the unique distinction of becoming the first fully insured Gram Panchayat in Karnataka under Christ University's social outreach initiative, "Suvarna Karnataka Abhiyaan," which was launched in August 2024. The declaration ceremony was held at the Bangalore Rural Zilla Panchayat, where Ms. Latha Kumari, IAS, CEO of Zilla Panchayat, Bangalore Urban, presented the award to Marsur Gram Panchayat. This milestone is part of Christ University's larger PAN-India vision of insuring all 6 lakh villages in India by 2033 through its nation-building initiative, 'Suraksha Chakra.' The event was attended by senior leaders from Christ University, including Dr. Anil Pinto (Registrar) and eminent dignitaries along with the university students. Christ University now takes its Suraksha Chakra initiative to Jharkhand, aiming to make Konbir Gram Panchayat the first fully insured GP in the state.

CMR University and Institute of Product Leadership Launched MBA in Technology Management

RCompanies increasingly rely on technology to drive strategies but often struggle to find professionals who can effectively bridge the gap between business and technology. Identifying this gap in the tech industry, CMR University has partnered with the US-based 'Institute of Product Leadership Inc' to skill professionals or 'techno-managers.' The programme equips professionals with the essential skills said Mr.Jayadeep K R Reddy, Pro-Chancellor of CMR University and CEO of CMR Group of Institutions. Businesses need techno-managers who can lead AI-enabled strategies, manage digital disruptions, and align technology with business growth, said Sai Satish Vedam, Chief Executive & Product Officer at the Institute of Product Leadership. Dr. K. C. Ramamurthy, IPS (Retd.), CM of CMR University & CMR Group of Institutions, and former MP (Rajya Sabha), emphasised the importance of industry-academia collaboration in the emerging business landscape. Industry experts provided insights into hiring trends for young business managers. Conducted live demonstrations of the latest innovations at the inaugural event organised to announce the launch of the MBA programme.

PhD Honor – Dr Dilip

Dr Dilip S, Physical Education Director, Christ University, Kengeri Campus, Mysore Road, Bengaluru recently completed his PhD under the guide R Savi, Professor, Physical Education, Annamalai University. His Topic was Efficacy of concurrent Aerobic and resistance training responses and detraining impace on selected Bio-Motor, Psychomotor and Skill performance of Basketball Players at Annamalai University.

Building capacities

India can gain from accelerated trade diplomacy in Europe

The security breach where a Khalistani protester approached External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's car in London overshadowed the headlines on his week-long visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland. And the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) made its displeasure clear to the Minister's British hosts. The scheduled visit, however, was not changed and Mr. Jaishankar side-stepped the scare, announcing that India-U.K. relations were set for a "very big pickup" despite their "complex history" and current problems. India is building its capacities in the U.K., with two consulates, in Manchester and Belfast, while Mr. Jaishankar's extended talks with U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy focused on the much-delayed conclusion of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The Agreement, which was due to be finished after U.K.'s 'Brexit' in 2020, has missed deadlines. Talks over an FTA dominated discussions in Ireland too, and came days after India and the European Union (EU) committed to concluding their Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) – for which talks began in 2007 – by the end of 2025. Bilateral trade with the U.K. ($52 billion) and Ireland ($17 billion) are underpowered, and discussions on enhancing collaborations, especially in high-tech trade, were on the agenda in both capitals. The FTA talks, India-U.K. (restarted last month) and India-EU (another round this week), will benefit from India's more conciliatory position on import duties with the U.S., which have been a sticking point for them as well. The government's decision to reduce tariffs on wines and spirits, motor and electric vehicles, in deference to U.S. President Trump's demands, is a case in point, and more cuts are expected in negotiating an India-U.S. BTA.

In that sense, Mr. Trump's reordering of U.S. alliances and trade policy may well have been the wind in Mr. Jaishankar's sails. The trip followed visits to Delhi by a high-power EU delegation led by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and a senior ministerial and business team led by Belgian Princess Astrid, that imparted the sense that Europe is looking for new, more dependable friends. Mr. Jaishankar's visit also came close on the heels of the dramatic showdown at the White House between Mr. Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, which led to an urgent summit of non-U.S. NATO countries being held in London, where U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer committed to support Ukraine with a "Coalition of the Willing". As geopolitical and geo-financial calculations are being reworked across the Atlantic, India stands to gain by accelerated diplomacy and offering a hand of friendship to both sides.

Second chance

Iran has reason to be wary of Trump's dialogue proposal

It was Donald Trump who sabotaged the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), better known as the Iran nuclear deal. When Mr. Trump, in his first term as President (2017-21), unilaterally withdrew the U.S. from the agreement in May 2018, Iran was fully compliant with the terms. Mr. Trump then adopted his 'maximum pressure' policy aimed at forcing Iran to renegotiate the deal – a move which Tehran rebuffed. Last week, Mr. Trump said he had sent a letter to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, asking him to reopen dialogue or risk military action. While the letter's details are still private, it took only two days for the Iranian leader to reject the outreach. Mr. Khamenei said "some bullying governments" insist on talks not to resolve the issue but to impose their deals. Iran's reaction is not entirely surprising. In 2013, Tehran had taken Barack Obama's overtures quite seriously. Mr. Khamenei had fully backed the Hassan Rouhani presidency's bid to negotiate with the West. And they had reached a result-oriented agreement which cut Iran's path towards nuclear weapons in return for the lifting of international sanctions. Now, when the American leader who demolished the functional agreement reaches out to them, the Iranians are sceptical for obvious reasons. Yet, there is a compelling argument to retake the path of diplomacy.

In 2018, when Mr. Trump imposed maximum pressure, Iran responded with maximum resistance. This mutual brinkmanship escalated regional tensions – Saudi Arabian oil facilities came under attack, Iran shot down an American drone, the U.S. assassinated Gen. Qassem Soleimani and Tehran retaliated with a missile strike on an American base in Iraq. While Mr. Trump's White House exit in 2021 ushered in the hope that the nuclear deal could be revived under the Biden administration, it did not happen. Over the four years, the region has seen dramatic developments. Today's Iran is weaker than what it was in 2020. Israel's war against Hamas and Hezbollah has weakened the 'Axis of Resistance'. Last year saw Israel and Iran exchange attacks. The fall of Syria's Assad regime, Tehran's only state ally in West Asia, in December 2024, shrank Iran's strategic depth in a hostile region. The country is also in deep economic pain, and the Israelis seem willing to take greater military risks, provided they have American backing. Amid challenges, Iran reportedly possesses enough high-grade fuel to produce weapons – Mr. Trump has acknowledged this with his 'we are reaching a critical point'. The U.S. wants to resolve the nuclear problem and Iran wants lasting economic and diplomatic reprieves. Beneath the hostility, there is a strategic possibility to resume dialogue. There is no harm in the Iranians giving it a second chance.

The empowerment of India's women with bold policies

Natasha Jha Bhaskar

is Executive Director at Newland Global Group, Australia's leading corporate advisory firm focused on strengthening India-Australia trade and investment ties. She is also the UN Women Australia and Chief Executive Women Scholar

In the context of International Women's Day on March 8, it is pertinent to note that India is making notable strides in empowering women, with government policies playing a crucial role in transforming women's access to sanitation, clean water, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship. These initiatives, paired with broader social and economic changes, are reshaping women's roles in governance, in the workforce, and community leadership across the country.

On sanitation and clean water missions

The journey towards women's empowerment in India took a significant step forward with the launch of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Clean India Mission), an initiative that was aimed not just at building toilets but also at improving the dignity, the safety and the well-being of women across the country. The mission focused on ending open defecation, especially in rural areas, where women faced heightened risks and challenges. According to government data, over 116 million households have benefited from the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), leading to safer, healthier environments and giving women greater freedom and security in their daily lives.

In Rourkela, the Maa Tarini Self-Help Group (SHG) took the initiative to address the sanitation needs of leprosy patients, a marginalised group often excluded from such efforts. By constructing community toilets with enhanced water supply, they provided a safer space for women, improved menstrual hygiene, and promoted dignity. The initiative also incorporated composting activities, generating income for the community while supporting sustainable waste management practices.

Building on the SBM's success, the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) was introduced to ensure that every household had access to safe and reliable drinking water. Prior to the mission, only 17% of India's rural households had tap water connections, leading to long hours spent by women fetching water – time that could have been used for education, work, or other pursuits. With the JJM, over 150 million households now have tap water, helping to lighten the daily burdens that women face.

The benefits extend far beyond convenience. Studies show that access to water has led to a 7.4% increase in women's participation in agriculture and allied work, particularly in States such as Bihar and Jharkhand, where female labour force participation was historically low. Between 2017 and 2023, rural female participation in the workforce jumped from 24.6% to 41.5%, with the JJM cited as a key driver of this positive change. By freeing women from the daily chore of water collection, this initiative is unlocking new opportunities for economic independence and helping local economies thrive.

> Government-led policies have transformed women's access to sanitation, clean water, financial inclusion, and entrepreneurship; the focus now should be on sustaining the momentum

India's efforts in empowering women through targeted policies and initiatives are not just improving daily life. They are also creating a foundation for future progress. With continued focus on accessible resources, financial inclusion, and breaking down social barriers, India is paving the way for a generation of women to lead and succeed in every area of life.

Women-led businesses, financial inclusion

India's economic transformation is increasingly being shaped by women entrepreneurs and financial inclusion initiatives, reflecting broader shifts in digital access, policy support, and economic empowerment.

Over 73,000 startups with at least one female director have been recognised under the Startup India Initiative, highlighting a growing presence of women in business leadership. Government-backed financing programmes, such as the Stand-Up India Scheme and Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, have played a key role in this expansion. The Stand-Up India Scheme has sanctioned over ₹53,609 crore in loans for 236,000 entrepreneurs, while Mudra Yojana has sanctioned ₹32.36 lakh crore for 51.41 crore loans, with 68% of the loans going to women.

The rapid expansion of digital connectivity is also enabling greater financial inclusion. Initiatives such as BharatNet and the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) have brought high-speed Internet to 199,000 villages and 2,14,000 gram panchayats, with over 2,47,000 Wi-Fi hotspots established. These digital advancements are giving women greater access to banking services, e-commerce platforms, and business opportunities. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, more than 300 million bank accounts have been opened for women, fostering financial independence and economic participation.

Women-led enterprises are also making inroads into e-commerce and government procurement. On the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal, women entrepreneurs now make up 8% of the total seller base, with over 1,00,000 Udyam-verified micro and small enterprises (MSEs) securing contracts worth ₹46,615 crore.

Digital platforms are proving to be game changers for small-scale women entrepreneurs. Reena Kirar, an entrepreneur from Madhya Pradesh, runs the Girja Devi Jan Kalyan Samiti, a self-help group producing clothing, food products, and household goods. By leveraging the GeM portal, her business expanded beyond local markets, illustrating how technology is bridging the gap between small enterprises and national opportunities.

As India's economy continues to grow, women-led businesses are playing an increasingly significant role, not just in entrepreneurship but also in reshaping the country's economic landscape.

Women's representation in governance

The representation of women in political decision-making has significantly increased over the years. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has witnessed significant reform, i.e., the implementation of a 33% reservation for women in legislative bodies, which will redefine the corridors of power. Today, women are not merely participants. They are key decision-makers, steering the nation toward a more inclusive future.

At the grassroots level, women have become catalysts for growth, constituting approximately 46% of elected representatives in panchayati raj institutions (PRIs), with over 1.4 million women serving in rural governance roles. The impact of this shift transcends mere numbers. With more women in leadership positions, policies have become more attuned to the priorities of families and communities. Areas such as health care, education, and public safety have seen significant improvements, driven by the unique perspectives and solutions that women leaders bring to the table. This evolution in leadership highlights a broader discourse: when women lead, societies thrive. India's commitment to empowering women in governance not only strengthens democracy but also paves the way for sustainable development and social equity.

India has seen significant progress in women's participation across various sectors, from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and sports to governance and entrepreneurship. Today, women make up nearly 43% of STEM graduates, contributing to the country's growing technical workforce. In 2023, Mr. Modi aptly stated at the G-20 Ministerial Conference on Women Empowerment, "When women prosper, the world prospers." By empowering women through entrepreneurship, education, and financial inclusion, we unlock new opportunities for growth, innovation, and societal progress, driving global transformation. Policies supporting women-led businesses, political representation, and skill development continue to shape economic and social progress. The focus now is on sustaining this momentum, ensuring that progress translates into lasting change for future generations.

India, Mauritius and a visit to deepen long-standing ties

Shyam Saran

is a former Foreign Secretary and was India's High Commissioner in Mauritius (1992-97)

In our current era of geopolitical churn and uncertainty, Prime Minister Narendra Modi' visit to Mauritius (March 11-12, 2025), will be a celebration of the deep and long-standing ties between the two countries. Mr. Modi had last visited the island country in 2015, but on this occasion, he will be the guest of honour at its Independence Day celebrations on March 12. India-Mauritius relations have enjoyed political consensus, irrespective of the party in power in either country. Mauritius has a new government in power led by Navinchandra Ramgoolam of the Labour Party, whose coalition won a landslide victory in the elections held in November last year. While India-Mauritius relations will continue to be positive and stable, the visit provides an opportunity for Mr. Modi to establish a personal connect with Mr. Ramgoolam and reassure him of India's continuing support to the island's security and prosperity. It was during the latter half of my tenure as India's High Commissioner to Mauritius (1992-97) that Mr. Ramgoolam was Prime Minister. India-Mauritius relations saw significant growth under his leadership and he was particularly sensitive to India's security concerns. I have no doubt that he will prove to be a trusted partner for India and will open new vistas for our cooperation.

The strong link of history

Mr. Ramgoolam's father, Sir Seewosagur Ramgoolam, had led the struggle for his country's independence and was its first Prime Minister. Not many people know that Sir Seewosagur worked closely with Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose during Bose's stay in Britain between 1919-21. They were part of the Indian students' movement in London working for Indian independence. Ramgoolam did the proof-reading for Bose's famous work, *The Indian Struggle*, and received an autographed copy in appreciation.

> The Indian Prime Minister's forthcoming visit is a reminder that India-Mauritius ties need to remain firm in today's uncertain world

There are strong people-to-people ties between the two countries. Nearly 70% of the population of Mauritius is of Indian origin, being the descendants of Indian indentured labour who were brought by the colonial rulers to work on sugar plantations. About 50% trace their ancestry to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh and still speak the Bhojpuri dialect. There are smaller communities of Tamil-, Telugu-, and Marathi-speaking communities who have preserved their languages and traditional culture. Mauritius appears like a microcosm of India.

However, the country is home to other ethnic groups including African and mixed populations, which create its proud rainbow culture. Though only 2% of the population, the island's French population is wealthy and influential, still owning its large sugar plantations, dominating its banking and financial sector and other commercial business.

The challenge for India's diplomats lies in maintaining links with all segments of the Mauritian population, even while celebrating the kinship and cultural ties that exist with its India-origin population. India has done much to nourish the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Indian-origin population. In 1976, it inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi Institute as a premier institution for promoting Indian languages and culture. The Indian Cultural Centre in Mauritius is the largest of anywhere in the world and is one of the most active. The island hosts the World Hindi Secretariat that is supported by India.

A business gateway

India-Mauritius bilateral trade has expanded rapidly over the past few years, reaching $554 million in 2022-23. Mauritius is a part of the African Union and has preferential trade agreements with African countries. It is bilingual, with most of its citizens being fluent in English and French. With its well-developed finance and banking sector and reliable laws and regulations, Mauritius has become a preferred platform for doing business with Africa particularly Francophone Africa. Thanks to a favourable Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) with India, Mauritius is also a major channel for foreign investment into India. Mauritius has emerged as a successful international financial centre, mainly on the back of the DTAA.

Crucial to India's maritime security

Mauritius is the sentinel of the western Indian Ocean and maritime security cooperation between our two countries is critical to enhancing India's maritime security. The Colombo Security Conclave brings together India, Sri Lanka, the Maldives, Mauritius and Bangladesh to work together to make this ocean space safe and secure. Mauritius is a small island but its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is 2.3 million square kilometres. India has set up a chain of coastal radar stations, redeveloped the Mauritian island of Agaléga to serve as a joint surveillance facility and given Mauritius access to the Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre for the Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in Gurugram, India, to significantly advance domain awareness in its vast EEZ. India's oceanographic survey ship, INS *Sarvekshak*, has just completed the survey of 25,000 sq.km of Mauritius' ocean territory.

At a time when China's footprint in the Indian Ocean is expanding, India-Mauritius maritime security cooperation has assumed special importance.

Beyond the ceremonial honours bestowed upon him, Mr. Modi will have much substance to discuss with his Mauritian counterpart. India-Mauritius relations must remain a strong and stable anchor in an uncertain and potentially risky world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On the boil again

It is unfortunate that even after the imposition of President's Rule in Manipur, normalcy still eludes the riot-ridden State. How can the free movement of vehicles be possible without the cooperation of the Kuki-Zo people? Before enforcing any plan, the government should take the Kuki-Zo people into confidence. The government should arrange for a meeting of the two communities and try to solve the problems.

D. Sethuraman,
Chennai

The photographs of dismantled militant bunkers in Manipur are alarming and highlight a certain level of military training and capabilities. The structures mirror those used by professional armies for defence, indicating that militants pose a significant challenge to Indian security forces. The situation needs to be analysed and a solution thought of that safeguards the sovereignty of India.

Rahul Singh,
Secunderabad

Student life

Though scuffles and substance abuse have become prevalent among school students, the killing of a schoolboy by a gang of students in Kerala is very disturbing as it poses a serious question about the well-being and safety of students in the days ahead. It is difficult for teachers and parents alike to keep a tab on the activities of students/children always. This tendency can be attributed to media content — the viewing of films with excessive violence and vengeance and the use of modern electronic gadgets which enable this. The profound influence on young minds cannot be dismissed as inevitable. The successful running of educational institutions has become a challenge as rowdyism is being reported more frequently ('Ground Zero' page, March 8).

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

In Dubai

The way Team India played in Dubai to clinch the Champions trophy was befitting for a champion team. The ICC title is a feather in India's cap.

Jiji Panicker K.,
Angadical, Chengannur, Kerala

Corrections & Clarifications

A sentence in a report, "100-day TB elimination campaign far from achieving main objective" (Science page, March 9, 2025), read: Yet, only 3.8 lakh of the over 10 crore (100 million) individuals were screened using X-rays..." It should have been 38 lakh.

The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Closing the gender gap in the higher judiciary

Jayna Kothari
Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

Women in law have seen great progress over the last 100 years in India. The first woman lawyer, Cornelia Sorabji, was entitled to practice in 1924. Since then, the number of women lawyers has increased, several women have been designated Senior Advocates, and there have been many women judges in the lower judiciary.

Inequality at the top

However, there remains a glass ceiling for women in the higher judiciary. The share of women judges in the High Courts is only 14.27% (109 out of 764). In eight High Courts, the number of woman judges is limited to just one. The High Courts of Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, and Tripura have no woman judge. The Allahabad High Court, which is the largest High Court in the country with 79 judges at present, has only three women judges (2%). Not only is there a disproportionately low number of women judges in the High Courts, but they are also appointed later than men. The average age of appointment of men is 51.8 years, but for women it is 53 years. Thus, women judges do not reach positions of seniority. Out of 25 High Courts, only the Gujarat High Court has a woman Chief Justice.

The numbers for the Supreme Court are much worse, with only two women judges serving at present – Justice B.V. Nagarathna and Justice Bela Trivedi. With Justice Bela Trivedi due to retire in June 2025, the top Court will be left with just one woman judge. The last woman judge appointed to the Supreme Court was in 2021. Since then, 28 judges have been appointed to the Supreme Court, and not a single of them is a woman. Over the last 75 years, the Supreme Court has elevated nine men from the Bar directly to the Supreme Court, but only one woman has been elevated directly from the Bar to the Court.

Many justifications are given for not appointing women. It is said that there are not enough eligible women candidates, not enough women with seniority, or that women do not want to become judges. All of this is merely top dressing, when the underlying factor is one of deep inequality, to borrow the analogy of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. One of the main causes for the exclusion of women from the higher judiciary is deep-rooted and systemic inequality, where women are seen as inferior within the legal profession. Women lawyers nominated for judgeship face heightened scrutiny. Far from compromising on merit, women are almost always required to prove merit more than men.

We also have the collegium system of appointments, which is opaque and non-transparent. There are no clearly stated criteria for eligibility or merit and there is no transparency in the process. This also works against women. The collegiums almost always comprise men and little or no effort is taken to get names of meritorious women lawyers for elevation. This is not the only hurdle. Even when names of women are recommended by the collegium, women are disproportionately not confirmed by the government. Since 2020, nine women's names were recommended by the collegium for appointment to the High Courts, but were not confirmed. Of these, five were the only names to be rejected.

This year, as we celebrate International Women's Day and 75 years of the Supreme Court, we need a transformation of our courts. Constitutional courts have to be gender equal in the true sense, where women are working, serving and leading in equal measure, especially on the Bench.

Steps towards equality

Women's representation in the judiciary is key to ensuring that courts represent their citizens and hand down sound judgments. Having an equal number of women on the Bench will enhance the legitimacy of courts and give a signal that our judiciary is inclusive and representative of the people whose lives they affect.

First, the collegium could frame a transparent process and provide clear criteria for appointment. This must include a process for lawyers to express interest in being considered for appointment, such as through applications. There must be clear criteria based on the highest standards of excellence and integrity, and a specified time frame during which the recommendations be made.

Second, there has to be a focus on gender diversity while making appointments. Diversity and merit are not contradictory; rather, in a pluralistic society such as ours, diversity makes the judiciary more representative, thus fostering impartiality and enhancing the moral legitimacy of the institution. There is, at present, a clear consideration of State-wise representation of judges, as well as of caste and religion. Gender diversity also needs to be taken into account to ensure that at least one-third of our higher judiciary, if not half, is composed of women.

This will mandate the appointment of a competent, independent, and impartial judiciary capable of upholding constitutionalism and the rule of law in the country, through a process that ensures selections solely based on merit and encourages diversity in the range of persons appointed, so as to enhance public confidence in the institution. Most importantly, gender balance needs to be a stated objective of the judiciary in making appointments.

Justice Indira Banerjee, a former judge of the Supreme Court, famously said in one of her interviews that she did not want any fanfare when she was appointed just because she was a woman. We have to ensure that women's appointments to the Supreme Court and High Courts are so normalised that it does not seem out of the ordinary at all.

We have to ensure that women's appointments to the Supreme Court and High Courts are so normalised that it does not seem out of the ordinary at all

The road to safety

Communication campaigns along with strict enforcement can make roads safer

STATE OF PLAY

G. Gururaj
Vaishakhi Mallik

The Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India, declared January 2025 as Road Safety Month, calling on all stakeholders to collaborate to make roads safer.

Every year, globally, approximately 11.9 lakh people die in road traffic crashes. In India, between 2009 and 2019, road traffic crashes were the 13th largest contributor to the health burden (Road Safety in India Status Report 2023, IIT Delhi). In 2022, Karnataka alone accounted for 8.6% of the road fatalities in India. As per the Karnataka State Police's annual report, in 2023, the share of crashes increased by 9%, fatal crashes increased by 7%, and cases of grievous injuries increased by 18% as compared to 2022.

Road safety is a public health issue. Crashes not only cause emotional, mental, and financial trauma to the loved ones of victims, but also place an immense healthcare and economic burden on the State and the country. According to a World Bank report, Traffic Crash Injuries and Disabilities: The Burden on Indian Society, about 75% of lower income households and 57% of higher income households reported a decline in total household income after a crash.

The United Nations Decade of Action for Road Safety 2021-2030 aims to halve deaths by 2030. Often dubbed a silent pandemic, road deaths and injuries are unacceptable since they are largely preventable.

Studies suggest that even a single, well-designed, evidence-based road safety campaign can reduce crashes from 8.5% to 9%. Mass media

campaigns have long been used to change attitudes, raise personal risk perceptions, and shape social norms to promote safer behaviours. The World Health Organization reaffirms the value of such targeted mass media campaigns.

One of the ways to reduce road traffic injuries is to focus on key risk factors, such as speeding, helmet and seat belt use, and drink driving. To ensure road safety, communication campaigns along with sound legislation and law enforcement have the most influence. For example, Bogotá, Colombia, implemented four campaigns on speeding paired with enhanced enforcement operations to intensify speed management efforts between 2018 and 2019. The campaigns were also supported by media strategies such as journalist workshops to help build the narrative on the importance of these actions. This contributed to a decrease in speeding from 39% to 21% during that period and helped prevent an estimated 73 deaths. These results resonated with citizens, who realised that the lives saved could have been their own or their loved ones.

In India, Karnataka adapted the global best practices by pairing a mass media campaign to reduce speeding with enforcement by the police. Between December 2023 and January 2025, the Karnataka State Road Safety Authority implemented three mass media campaigns. In December 2023, the mass media campaign addressed speeding by sharing the moving story of a crash survivor who was left permanently disabled because of a speeding driver. The campaign reached an estimated 2.3 crore adults in Karnataka. An evaluation of it revealed that for over 90% of the respondents, the campaign generated the intended concern about speeding and motivated them to comply with posted speed limits.

The second campaign, launched in January 2024, focused on correct helmet wearing. The third, implemented from December 2024 to January 2025, was an instructional-style mass media campaign explaining the science of a crash. It focused on how even a slight difference in speed can decide the chance of a crash and its severity. The Karnataka police conducted targeted enforcement drives on speeding while disseminating the key message at checkpoints and through social media.

While these results are positive, one campaign is not enough. The culture around road safety in India must shift from unavoidable accidents to unacceptable tragedies. Repeated messaging on the need to follow speed limits set by the government, and other risk factors, such as correct helmet use, can drive long-term behavioural change. Enforcement should continuously focus on the risk factors and strategies to improve compliance. A public narrative must be built to portray enforcement as a preventive measure rather than a punitive one. In doing so, roads can be safer for all.

Dr G. Gururaj is an epidemiologist, public health consultant, and road safety advisor; and Vaishakhi Mallik is Director, Communication, India at Vital Strategies

As imports of semiconductor chips rise, India eyes local production

In FY24, the total value of monolithic integrated circuits imports was ₹1.05 lakh crore, a 2,000% increase compared with FY16

DATA POINT

Kushal Varma J.V.

At the World Economic Forum in January, Minister of Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw announced that India's first domestically manufactured semiconductor chip will be rolled out this year. Through domestic production, India aims to reduce its increasing import dependency.

Five manufacturing facilities are under construction for the manufacturing and assembly of semiconductor chips, backed by the Semicon India Programme. These include the Tata Semiconductor Assembly and Test facility in Morigaon and the Dholera semiconductor fabrication facility (fab) by Tata Electronics in collaboration with the Taiwan-based Powerchip Semiconductor Manufacturing Corporation.

The Semicon India Programme, launched in 2021, aims to develop the semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem. However, the actual spending on the four schemes listed under the Semicon India Programme has consistently fallen short of budgeted allocations. In FY23, expenditure was ₹13 crore, significantly lower than the revised estimate (RE) of ₹200 crore that year. In FY24, the budgeted ₹3,000 crore was revised to ₹1,503.36 crore, with only ₹681.11 crore ultimately spent. In FY25, the RE of ₹3,816 crore was nearly half of the originally budgeted ₹6,903 crore **(Chart 1).** However, the good news is that the RE for FY25 has doubled compared to FY24, suggesting that the government is making efforts to improve the programme's implementation.

This is important to note in light of India's increased import reliance for semiconductor chips. Data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry show that in the past 10 years, imports for semiconductor chips such as monolithic integrated circuits (ICs), memories, amplifiers, and other ICs have increased significantly.

Monolithic ICs are used in the CPUs of computers and smartphones, automobiles, medical devices and industrial automation systems and are imported the most. In FY24, the total value of Monolithic IC imports was ₹1.05 lakh crore **(Chart 2)**, a 2,000% increase compared with FY16.

Memories refer to memory chips, which include non-volatile memory chips (such as NAND flash used in Solid State Drives and pen drives) that retain data permanently and volatile memory chips (such as RAM) that store data temporarily. In FY24, import of memory chips increased by 4,500% compared with FY16. Imports of amplifiers, which are utilised in wireless communication and audio equipment, increased by 4,800% in FY24 from FY16.

Even as a percentage share of total imports, the share of semiconductor chips has increased over the years. Monolithic ICs constitute nearly 2.09% of India's total imports in FY25 (April-November), a considerable jump from 0.19% in FY16 **(Chart 3)**. The share of memory chips in total imports has also increased significantly.

In the past 10 years, except FY19, China has been the major supplier of semiconductor chips to India, accounting for nearly one-third of the import value every year **(Chart 4)**. Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Singapore, and Taiwan have also been major suppliers to India.

With the new facilities, India will be able to add value in the assembly, testing, and packaging, and fab segments of the global value chain for semiconductors, but it is yet to make major strides in EDA (software used for designing chips), Core IP (patents), wafers (semiconductor materials), fab tools and ATP tools (machinery), and design of chips.

Building blocks, chip by chip

The data for the charts were taken from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

■ *In the past 10 years, except FY19, China has been the major supplier of semiconductor chips to India, accounting for nearly one-third of the import value every year*

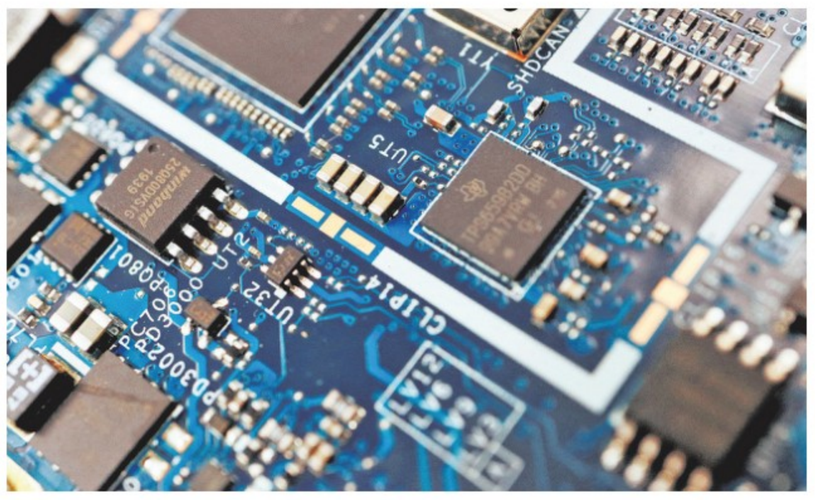


Chart 1: The chart shows the Union Budget allocation for the Semicon India Programme (in ₹ crore)

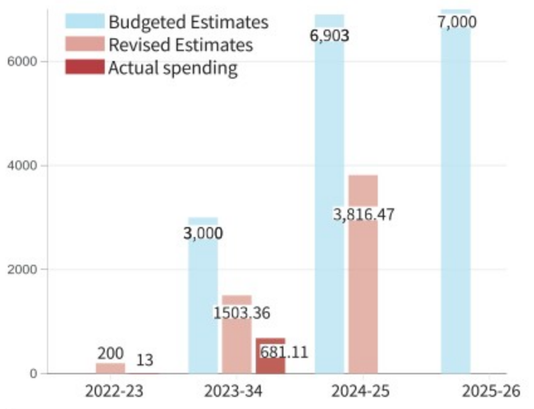


Chart 2: The chart shows the value of import of semiconductor chips in India (in ₹ lakh crore)

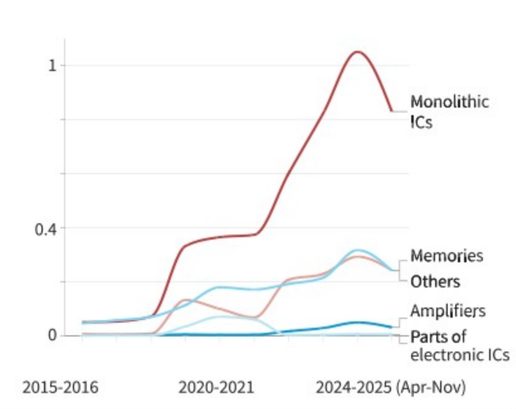


Chart 3: The chart shows the share of semiconductor chips in India's total imports. Figures in %

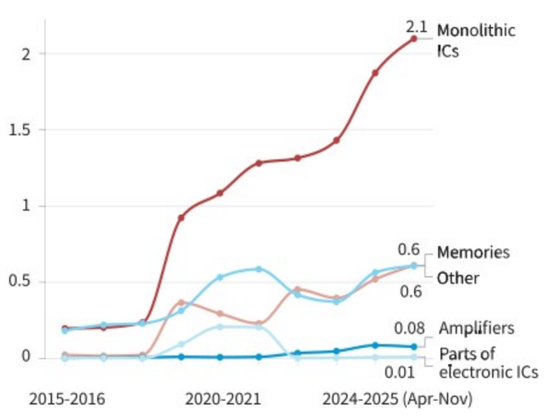
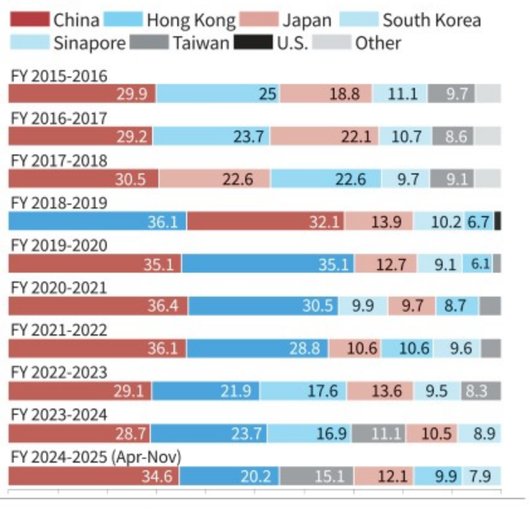


Chart 4: Year-wise share of import value of chips. Figures in %



Kushal Varma JV is interning with The Hindu

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 10, 1975

Some schools in Kerala not getting enough students

New Delhi, March 9: Primary schools in a few pockets in Kerala are faced with a unique problem – there are fewer children for enrolment.

This phenomenon in a State with a high literacy rate was attributed by family planning authorities to a fall in the number of fresh births. The Family Planning programme in the State got started in 1955.

Officials, however, could not provide a party of visiting newsmen with up-to-date statistics of this situation. But it was stated such a situation existed in areas around Ernakulam where mass sterilisation camps were an overwhelming success.

Census figures revealed a slight reduction in the proportion of those belonging to the 6-14 age group in the State. It dropped from 42.63 per cent in 1961 to 40.25 per cent in 1971.

Despite the decline in birth rate (now standing at 31 per 1,000 population), improvement in general mortality has contributed to keeping Kerala the most densely populated State. Consequently, the growth rate and the structure of the population have not been favourably altered.

Family planning achievements in Kerala were due in a large measure to the status of women who, outnumbering the men population since 1901, enjoyed a literacy rate of 54.22 per cent as compared to the all-India figure of 18.7 per cent for females. Another healthy trend was that at marriage, the age of Kerala women over the years has crossed 20. This would help reduce the fertility rates of women in the 15-19 age group.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 10, 1925

Indians in colonies

London, March 10: In the Commons, Mr. Lansbury asked which British Dominions and Colonies prohibited or restricted the entry of Indians and whether India restricted the entry and domicile of Britishers.

Colonel Amery gave particulars, whereupon Mr. Wedgwood asked whether Kenya was only Crown Colony that restricted immigration of British Indians.

Colonel Amery replied that Kenya did not impose any restrictions.

From Page One

Women block vital highway in Manipur

Hai Hatchingthem Kipgen, a fourth-year college student who was leading the protests at Kangpokpi bazaar on Sunday, accused the security forces of attacking the protesters.

"A member of the security force told us that we are not Indians. His superior immediately pulled him back. We are a part of India and that is why we are fighting for a separate administration. We have blocked the road because we lost one brother yesterday," said Ms. Kipgen.

The anti-riot Rapid Action Force (RAF) and the Central Reserve Police Force marched on the violence-hit stretch at regular intervals. The roads were blocked at multiple points with the help of wooden logs and huge rocks.

Two police vehicles that were set on fire during the protests remained on the highway to block the movement of heavy vehicles.

A resident Angam Leivon, 70, whose house in Imphal was torched during the May 2023 violence said that people from the hill district were not going to visit the valley areas in the future and the enforced normalcy was not acceptable.

"President's Rule should have been imposed much earlier. So many lives were lost, my house in Imphal was burnt down. The Meiteis will also not come here, what is the need for the movement of State Transport buses on the highways then?" asked Mr. Leivon.

After Home Minister Amit Shah's direction to enforce free movement on highways, the Manipur administration ran Manipur State Transport (MST) buses on two routes on Saturday - Imphal-Kangpokpi-Senapati and Bishnupur-Churachandpur-Imphal passing through Meitei, Kuki-Zo and Naga areas.

Kuki-Zo protestors clashed with security forces at multiple points in Kangpokpi as an "empty" MST bus that originated from Imphal reached the area. The bus could not cross Kangpokpi and has been kept at an undisclosed location.

The other MST bus which plied on the Bishnupur-Churachandpur-Imphal route under security cover could complete the journey without any violence. The buses are scheduled to ply again on Monday.

Amid protests, L-G orders probe into Kathua killings

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah condemns incident, while Union minister Jitendra Singh calls it a terror act; the bodies of three civilians, including a 14-year-old boy, were recovered on Saturday

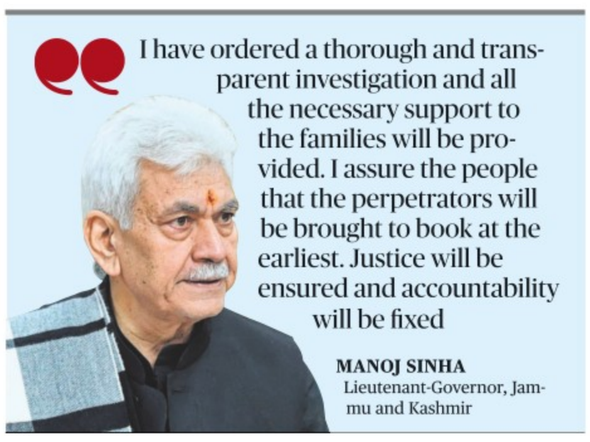
Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday ordered a probe into the killing of three civilians, including a 14-year-old boy, in the upper reaches of Kathua district in Jammu.

"I have ordered a thorough and transparent investigation and all the necessary support to the families will be provided. I assure the people that the perpetrators will be brought to book at the earliest. Justice will be ensured and accountability will be fixed," Mr. Sinha said.

The three civilians – Varun Singh, Yogesh Singh, and Darshan Singh – went missing on Wednesday while they were returning home after attending a wedding in Billawar. Their bodies were recovered near a waterbody in the upper reaches of Billawar on Saturday.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh pointed to the involvement of terrorists in the killing of the three civilians. The Minister said the killings were a matter of great concern.


I have ordered a thorough and transparent investigation and all the necessary support to the families will be provided. I assure the people that the perpetrators will be brought to book at the earliest. Justice will be ensured and accountability will be fixed
MANOJ SINHA
Lieutenant-Governor, Jammu and Kashmir

"The brutal killing of three youth by terrorists in Bani area of district Kathua is extremely sad as well as a matter of great concern. There appears to be a deep conspiracy behind spoiling the atmosphere in this peaceful area," the Minister, who represents the Udhampur Lok Sabha constituency that includes Kathua, said on X.

"We have discussed this matter with the officials concerned. The Union Home Secretary himself is reaching Jammu so that the situation can be assessed on the spot. I am confident it will be ensured that such incidents do not happen again and the confidence of the people remains strong," Mr. Singh said.

Local people held protests on Sunday against the killings in Kathua district.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah termed the killings "barbaric".

"Deeply shocked and saddened by the barbaric murder of three innocent civilians, including a minor boy, in Kathua. Such heinous acts have no place in our society and must be met with the strongest condemnation. My heartfelt condolences to the grieving families," Mr. Abdullah said in a post on X.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary also condemned the killings, and said "increasing crime is a matter of concern".

Former Chief Minister and Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti termed the growing violence in Kathua "deeply alarming". She said that in a short span of time, nearly a dozen people had lost their lives.

"Five of them were allegedly chased by the police and cow vigilantes, which led to fatal accidents. Subsequently, the bodies of two members of the Hindu community were discovered, followed by three more yesterday, including the heart-breaking case of a 14-year-old. Tragically, while the police seem more focused on extracting false confessions from victims like Makhan Din, the real perpetrators are still at large," she said.

Din died by suicide in February allegedly after being tortured in police custody in a case related to militancy. Officials are yet to make public the magisterial and departmental inquiries instituted into the case.

(With inputs from PTI)

DGCA asks Air India to submit report after woman suffers fall

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Raj Pasricha

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sought a detailed report from Air India after an 82-year-old passenger suffered a fall at the Delhi airport following an alleged delay in providing her a wheelchair. The woman had to be admitted to the intensive care unit for a stroke.

"We have asked Air India for a detailed report with evidence by Monday," a senior DGCA official told *The Hindu*.

A team of DGCA officials met the family of the octogenarian at the IAF's Command Hospital in Bengaluru on Sunday. The family formally submitted a written complaint.

Alleged delay

The woman, Raj Pasricha, sustained head and facial injuries at the Delhi airport on March 4 due to a fall while she was making her way to the check-in counter following an alleged delay in providing her a wheelchair. The wheelchair had been booked at the time of purchasing the air ticket for her flight to Bengaluru.

She was administered first aid at the Delhi airport but continued bleeding throughout the journey and was administered stitches upon arrival at the Bengaluru airport.

Air India maintains that the passenger arrived only 90 minutes before the flight, while the airline recommends reporting at least two hours before departure. Check-in counters close 60 minutes before departure.

The woman was in the ICU for four days after she was brought to the Command Hospital on March 5. She was placed under the "dangerously ill" category.

On Saturday, she was moved to the family ward. Her family told *The Hindu* that Ms. Pasricha is still weak and will be under observation for a few more days. She may also need physiotherapy for the next few months due to weakness in the left side of her body.

Learning by experience, we are closing gaps in NAAC, says UGC chief

P. Sujatha Varma
VIJAYAWADA

Experience has taught caution to the officials at the helm of the National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC). After facing allegations of bribery in its grading process at Koneru Lakshmaiah Education Foundation (KLEF)-Deemed to be University in A.P., major revamp has been announced in the accreditation process.

The proposed reforms include a binary accreditation system, maturity-based grading, stakeholders' feedback, and reduced reliance on physical visits by teams from NAAC.

"There should be zero tolerance for any such instance. We learn through experiences, and this one has given us an opportunity to look into the entire process. That's precisely why we looked into the assessor's database and removed 900 of them," Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar, Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC) and president of the NAAC's General Council (GC) told *The Hindu*.

"Accreditation is important for institutions as we need to establish some benchmarks," he said.

Referring to the proposed Binary Accreditation, a basic accreditation, he said, given the fact that there were around 56,000 colleges and 1,200 universities in the country, the major challenge would be to encourage all of them to get on-boarded in the accreditation process for creating quality culture in the higher education system.

Centre awaits prospective names from High Courts to be appointed ad hoc judges

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Over a month after the Supreme Court cleared the decks to appoint ad hoc judges in High Courts to deal with the rising pendency of cases, the government is yet to receive proposals from respective High Courts naming candidates.

Considering a backlog of over 18 lakh criminal cases, the Supreme Court on January 30 allowed the High Courts to appoint ad hoc judges, not exceeding 10% of the court's total sanctioned strength.

Article 224A of the Constitution allows the appointment of retired judges as ad hoc judges in High Courts to help deal with pendency.

Sources said the Union Law Ministry is yet to receive any recommendation from respective High Court collegiums for appointing ad hoc judges.

The procedure for appointing ad hoc judges follows a similar path as regular judges, except the President does not sign a warrant of appointment but gives assent.

Bench eases conditions

In a judgment on April 20, 2021, on the appointment of ad hoc judges in the High Courts, the top court had imposed certain conditions. However, later a special Supreme Court Bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justices B.R. Gavai and Surya Kant had relaxed certain conditions and kept some in abeyance.

The Bench said each High Court should keep the appointment to two to five ad hoc judges and not exceed 10% of the total sanctioned strength. "The ad hoc judges will sit in a Bench presided over by a sitting judge of the High Court and decide pending criminal appeals," said the top court's order.

The court kept certain conditions in abeyance, such as the requirement that vacancies should not exceed 20% of the sanctioned strength.

Article 224A of the Constitution deals with the appointment of ad hoc judges in High Courts.

Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh becomes India's 58th Tiger Reserve

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

The Centre declared the Madhav National Park in Madhya Pradesh as the country's 58th tiger reserve on Sunday, with Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav making the announcement. The newly added Tiger Reserve is also the ninth from the State to get the recognition.

Located in Shivpuri district in the Chambal region of Madhya Pradesh, the reserve has a population of five tigers at present, including two cubs born recently.

Three tigers, including two females, were introduced to the Madhav National Park in 2023 as part of the tiger reintroduction project in the State.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav could soon release two more tigers into the reserve.

Conservation counts: The reserve has five tigers at present, including two cubs that were born recently. ANI

'Great strides'

"With historic emphasis laid on restoring the ecological diversity on planet Earth by PM Shri Narendra Modi *ji*, India continues to make great strides in environmental protection and wildlife conservation. I congratulate all wildlife lovers and conservationists. The development is a testament to the relentless efforts of our forest officials who are selflessly working towards the cause," the Union Minister said in his post.

Applauding the move, Mr. Modi said that India was blessed with wildlife diversity and a culture that celebrated wildlife.

DGCA orders probe after IndiGo plane scrapes runway

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The tail section of an IndiGo Airbus A321 aircraft scraped the runway at the Chennai airport on Saturday during landing, in what is at least the sixth such incident for the airline in the past two years.

The DGCA is investigating the tail strike incident, which occurred when IndiGo's 6E-5325 Mumbai-Chennai flight was making a landing. The aircraft, registered as VT-IBI, landed at 1.55 p.m. in Chennai on Saturday.

IndiGo stated in a statement that the aircraft has since been grounded and will return to operations post repairs and clearance.

A senior DGCA official explained that the investigation will look into crew technique during approach, wind conditions as well as the flap setting used for which IndiGo had received a penalty from the regulator in the past.

The same aircraft was involved in a tail strike on September 9, 2024, following which it was grounded till February 6 due to the extent of damage, which extended from the wings to the tail.

The event was categorised as a serious incident as there was a high probability of an accident, and the investigation was handed over to the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB). The report into the September tail strike has not yet been released.

AAIB sources said that they have collected inputs from Airbus on the September tail strike but they are yet to determine whether the tail strike occurred in Delhi or Bengaluru. *The Hindu* reported on September 20, 2024, that though the aircraft was grounded in Bengaluru after a flight from Delhi when airline personnel noticed damage to the fuselage. However, according to multiple sources in the airline, the aircraft had arrived at the Delhi airport with the damaged belly, where engineering personnel and pilots failed to notice the scrape marks, and the aircraft was released for its flight to Bengaluru. A mandatory walkaround, or an inspection of the aircraft, was not carried out at the Delhi airport because it was raining. The airline also suspended an aircraft maintenance engineer.

The incident occurred when IndiGo's 6E-5325 Mumbai-Chennai flight was landing in Chennai on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Such a lapse poses a hazard to passenger safety as there could be potential damage to the pressurisation system located in this part of the aircraft, impacting oxygen levels in passenger cabin.

Extended length

Airbus pilots say that the A321 aircraft are more prone to tail strikes due to their extended length as compared with the Airbus A319 and A320. The A321 is 6.94 metres longer than the A320 and requires a more delicate angle of inclination at the time of landing and take-off.

In July 2023, the DGCA imposed a penalty of ₹30 lakh on IndiGo after recording at least six tail strikes involving Airbus A321 Neos. It found "systemic deficiencies pertaining to operations, training procedures and engineering procedures".

Specifically there was a concern with the use of a "flap" configuration recommended by IndiGo to its pilots in order to reduce fuel consumption and save costs. Flaps are movable surfaces on the trailing edge of an aircraft's wings that help control lift and drag [or friction].

A senior DGCA official explained that "as a company policy, the crew were asked to carry out flap 3 landing every time, which is not in line with the Airbus Flight Crew Operating Manual (FCOM) procedures".

IndiGo was advised that the "flap 3 landing" recommended by it should be left to the pilot's discretion. A flap 3 landing instead of a full flap or flap 4 landing impacts landing performance and helps achieve lower fuel burn of up to 20 kg to 30 kg per landing, some pilots say.

ED restores ₹13.58-cr. assets to victims of money laundering

Devesh Kumar
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has facilitated restitution of assets worth ₹13.58 crore to the victims of money laundering and rightful claimants in the "fake imports" case involving "illegal" overseas remittance of about ₹3,200 crore.

The ED initiated its investigation based on an FIR filed by the Bank of Baroda against 59 current account holders of firms, companies and unknown bank officials, alleging various offences under the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The ED found that large sums were remitted to companies under the guise of import remittances, but no actual imports occurred. The ED issued provisional attachment orders for assets worth ₹69 crore and filed prosecution complaints.

On March 8, the ED submitted no objection to the restitution of attached properties, aligning with the PMLA's intent to return proceeds of crime to rightful claimants.

"The Additional Session Judge ordered the restitution of immovable properties... the restitution of properties to the rightful claimant and victim marks a significant step in the ED's efforts to ensure that the POC are returned to those affected," the agency said.

Fashion show in Gulmarg stirs row, CM seeks report

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A fashion show during the Islamic holy month of Ramzan at Gulmarg in north Kashmir on Sunday sparked a controversy, with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah seeking a report for "an appropriate action".

Officials said the fashion show in which male and female models participated was organised to mark the 15th anniversary of the designer label Shivan & Narresh against the backdrop of snow-laden slopes of Gulmarg on Friday. In the past two days, the videos of the show went viral online with many in Kashmir expressing objections.

Kashmir's chief cleric Mirwaiz Umar Farooq termed the fashion show during Ramzan "outrageous".

Mr. Abdullah, replying to the Mirwaiz, said the shock and anger were totally understandable. "My office has been in touch with the local authorities and I've asked for a report to be submitted within the next 24 hours," he said.

Hindu temple vandalised in U.S. with anti-India graffiti

India calls for stringent action over the Chino Hills city incident and seeks adequate security to places of worship; Congress says such acts of hatred and intolerance are utterly unacceptable

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/NEW DELHI

A prominent Hindu temple in the U.S. was defaced with anti-India graffiti by unknown individuals, prompting a strong condemnation from India and a demand for "stringent action" against those involved in the incident.

The Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) said its Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Chino Hills city of San Bernardino County in California faced desecration. Chino Hills borders Los Angeles County.

"In the face of another Mandir desecration, this time in Chino Hills, CA, the Hindu community stands steadfast against hate. Together with the community in Chino Hills and Southern California, we will never let hate take root," the BAPS Public Affairs posted on the social media platform X.

"Our common humanity and faith will ensure that peace and compassion prevail," it said, without providing details of the incident.

> We have seen reports regarding the vandalism at a Hindu temple. We condemn such despicable acts in the strongest terms
> **RANDHIR JAISWAL**
> EAM spokesperson

India on Sunday strongly condemned the incident, and called for adequate security to places of worship in view of the incident.

"We have seen reports regarding the vandalism at a Hindu temple in Chino Hills, California. We condemn such despicable acts in the strongest terms," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in New Delhi while responding to media queries on the incident.

"We call upon the local law enforcement authorities to take stringent action against those responsible for these acts, and also ensure adequate security to places of worship," he said.

The Congress also condemned the incident, saying such acts of hatred and intolerance were utterly unacceptable.

"The Indian National Congress condemns in the strongest possible terms the vandalism of the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Chino Hills, California," the Congress's media and publicity department head, Pawan Khera, said in an X post. "Such acts of hatred and intolerance are utterly unacceptable and have no place in any civilised society," he said and demanded action against those responsible for the incident.

The Hindu American Foundation, a non-profit advocacy group in the U.S., said the vandalism occurred on Saturday, and demanded the FBI and its Director, Kash Patel, to probe the matter.

"We ask @ChinoHills_PD, @FBI @FBIDirectorKash @DNIGabbard to investigate this latest in a string of anti-Hindu hate crimes on our sacred spaces," it said.

In September, the BAPS Hindu temple in Sacramento area of California was desecrated with expletive-laden graffiti, saying "Hindus go back!" Nearly 10 days before the incident, another BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Melville, New York, was defaced with hateful messages. The Consulate-General of India in New York had strongly condemned the incident.

Congress pitches for GST 2.0, says it supports a truly 'good, simple tax' regime

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A day after Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates would be further rationalised, the Congress on Sunday argued for "more comprehensive changes" to the indirect tax regime.

Speaking at an awards function on Saturday, Ms. Sitharaman said the process of rationalising GST further was in its final stages.

"This is the appropriate year for a GST 2.0 since the GST compensation cess is likely to meet its revenue targets later this financial year. The Finance Ministry therefore has a fiscal cushion to anchor the simplified GST," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a statement.

"The Indian National Congress had envisaged a GST 2.0 – a truly Good and Simple Tax – in its Nyay Patra for the 2024 Lok Sabha Elections, and remains committed to this vision. The ball is now in the Union Government's court – will they take this historic opportunity?" Mr. Ramesh said.

Jairam Ramesh

Modified regime

Putting forth his argument in favour of a modified GST regime, the Congress leader quoted the Modi government's former Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian as saying that "the GST has up to a 100 different tax rates, including cesses".

"This complexity increases the compliance burden on businesses and the government bureaucracy," Mr. Ramesh noted.

He said multiplicity of rates has facilitated "alarming GST evasion of ₹2.01 lakh crore, almost double the ₹1.01 lakh crore reported in FY23". While 18,000 fraudulent entities have been uncovered, many more are likely undetected, the Congress leader said.

Complicated situation

High rate of refund and fraudulent input tax credit (ITC) claims have made the situation even more complicated, the Congress leader argued.

Mr. Ramesh also made a strong case for rationalising tax rates on items such as educational textbooks and stationery, including uniforms, schoolbags, and open-distance learning courses.

"The complexity of the current GST regime reflects a lack of seriousness on the government's part to enforce a truly Good and Simple Tax," the senior Congress leader said.

U.P. Police remove loudspeakers from mosque, case filed

The Hindu Bureau
LUCKNOW

The police removed loudspeakers from a mosque in Sambhal district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday for alleged violations of noise control guidelines.

The first information report of the police said the loudspeakers installed at the Punjabian masjid in Chandausi were used at volumes that breached the noise pollution regulations set by the Allahabad High Court. The policemen on patrol removed the loudspeakers from the mosque, it added.

"The incident was reported by beat constable Jitender Kumar on Saturday around 7 p.m.," read the FIR, registered under Sections 223 (disobedience to order duly promulgated by a public servant), 270 (Public nuisance) and 292 (punishment for public nuisance) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. The FIR, which also included provisions of noise pollution laws, further named Shakeel Shamsi, the mosque's caretaker.

In 2022, the Uttar Pradesh government issued guidelines to restrict the use of loudspeakers at places of worship and since then, the devices have been removed from religious sites on many occasions, and cases had been registered.

On November, five persons died and several were injured when violence erupted over a court-ordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid. After the violence, the administration held many anti-encroachment drives to remove "illegally built structures".

BJP blames Trinamool for ongoing impasse at Jadavpur University, takes out rally in area

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Amid tensions prevailing at Jadavpur University in Kolkata, the West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party on Sunday took out a rally in the area and called the university a "hub of anti-nationals".

It also blamed the ruling Trinamool Congress for the ongoing impasse at the State-run university.

With the scuffle between a section of students and State Education Minister Bratya Basu on the campus on March 1 bringing the Left parties and the Trinamool face-to-face, the BJP and its allies have been trying to precipitate the situation with supporters of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad trying to storm the university, and on Sunday the party taking to the streets.

Hitting out: Bharatiya Janata Party supporters holding a rally over the Jadavpur University incident in Kolkata on Sunday. ANI

The BJP rally was led by Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari and president of BJP Yuva Morcha Indranil Khan. "Mamata Banerjee has created this Frankenstein [Jadavpur University]. All kinds of anti-national activities including drugs are prevalent in the university. In case of Jadavpur, both the Trinamool and the CPI(M) are on the same page and responsible for the situation," Mr. Adhikari said.

The rally by the BJP comes despite a direction of the Calcutta High Court that rallies with more than 750 persons are prohibited in the vicinity of the university till March 13. This is not the first time that the West Bengal BJP leadership had targeted the university students, calling them "anti-nationals" and terming the university a hub of "urban Naxals". Despite several attempts, neither the Trinamool Congress nor the BJP has been able to extend its influence in the university, where the Left-dominated students unions have called the shots.

Even as the impasse continues, Acting Vice-Chancellor Bhaskar Ghosh was discharged from hospital. Professor Ghosh has been missing from the university since the controversy erupted.

Call for a meeting

The students had given the authorities a deadline till 1 p.m. on Monday to call a meeting of the university's Executive Council (EC). According to reports from the university authorities, a meeting will be held at the university on Monday and two representatives of the students have also been invited to attend the meeting.

The Kolkata Police had registered nine FIRs, including one at the instructions of the Calcutta High Court against Minister Bratya Basu, his driver and Professor Om Prakash Mishra on the statement made by Indranuj Roy, who came under the wheels of the Minister's car. The student was admitted to hospital with serious injuries on the face and had to be administered 14 stitches near his eye. In the other FIRs, charges have been framed against the students.

The students had gathered around the vehicle of the Minister demanding student union elections on March 1, when the scuffle erupted, and some students came under the wheels of his car.

Tejashwi holds stir, calls for 65% quota in govt. jobs

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) supporters, led by Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav, on Sunday staged a dharna in Patna demanding 65% reservation in government jobs in Bihar.

The demonstration was held outside the party office during which Mr. Yadav accused the Nitish Kumar government of stealing reservation of economically poor and socially backward people.

He alleged that due to the theft of reservation by the government, people have been deprived of about 50,000 jobs.

"We are fighting this matter in the House as well, and will not let reservations end at any cost. This is our resolve and assurance," Mr. Yadav said.

Main goal of BJP is to serve people, not just gain power: Nadda

The Hindu Bureau
AGARTALA

The main goal of the Bharatiya Janata Party is "to serve the people, not just gain power", BJP national president and Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda said at at a public rally in Agartala on Sunday

This commitment was reflected in "hard work for the welfare of citizens", which had resulted in the party "returning to power repeatedly with support from the people", he said.

The rally was organised to mark the completion of the second year of the BJP-led government in Tripura. Mr. Nadda highlighted the party's accomplishments during its previous term in government, and thanked the electorate of the State for their support in electing BJP candidates during the 2019 and 2024 Lok Sabha elections.

He said the party's dedication to the marginalised communities would keep it in power, while alleging that the Opposition had not been contributing to welfare.

New schemes

Mr. Nadda announced two State schemes for Tripura – the "Mukhyamantri Balika Samriddhi Yojana" to provide bonds to help support girls born in below-poverty-line families, and the "Chief Minister Kanya Atmanirbhar Yojana" to give scooters free to top girl students.

DIRECTORATE URBAN TRANSPORT
Government of Uttar Pradesh

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)

The Noida Urban Agglomeration (NUA) comprising urban mobilty areas of NOIDA, GNIDA & YEIDA is planning to launch a dedicated City Bus Services for enhancing the quality of life and increasing last mile connectivity.

To promote green mobility, the Directorate of Urban Transport, Government of Uttar Pradesh is inviting proposals for **Procurement, Supply, Operation and Maintenance of 500 Electric Buses under Gross Cost Contract (GCC) Model** for NUA.

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RFP Document may be downloaded from **https//etender.up.nic.in**
(March 08, 2025 onwards)
Proposal Due Date: 17:00 Hrs; May 16, 2025

For any clarifications, you may contact:
Manoj Panda, Mob.: +91 98719 79370;
Vinay Singh: Mob.: +91 97936 11444

CONTACT US

Directorate of Urban Transport
Urban Training & Research Center & Directorate of Local Bodies;
Room No. 305, Sector -7, Gomti Nagar Extension, Lucknow- 226010
Email: jdutdgoup@gmail.com

UPID RO: 230930 RO Dt: 08/03/2025 Website: www.up.gov.in

INSURANCE INFORMATION BUREAU OF INDIA
1st Floor, APSFC Building, 38/39, Financial District, Nanakramguda, Telangana 500032
Ph: (040) 23009700

Expression of Interest

IIB is inviting Expression of Interest for development and implementation of Regulatory Information Management System (RIMS) using Low Code platform for IRDAI. For details, please visit **www.irdai.gov.in** or **https://iib.gov.in.** Last date for submitting application is March 31, 2025.

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग बीकानेर
क्रमांक-3348 दिनांक:- 03.03.2025
अल्पकालीन निविदा सूचना संख्या 17/ पीएमजीएसवाई/ 2024-25
NIB Code No :- PWD2425A4489
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से प्रधानमंत्री ग्राम सड़क योजना के तृतीय चरण के अन्तर्गत सड़क अपग्रेडेसन के कार्य मय पांच साल की मरम्मत के लिए 01 पैकेज हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/ केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/ डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेब साईट www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in व ' http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in, Gepnic.portal पर देखा जा सकता है। पैकेजवाईज यू.बी.एन संख्या निम्नानुसार है। **PWD2425WLOB16147**
इच्छुक संवेदकों को अपने डिजिटल हस्ताक्षर के माध्यम से वेबसाईट http://pmgsytendersraj.gov.in पर रजिस्टर्ड होना आवश्यक है।
अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता, सानिवि, संभाग- बीकानेर
DIPR/C/3206/25

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत डूंगरपुर
क्रमांकः टी.एस./निविदा फाईल/ 2024-25/डी 2893 दिनांकः 28.02.2025
निविदा सूचना संख्या- 12/2024-25
NIB Code:- PWD2425A4477
राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से भवन निर्माण कार्य मय पांच वर्ष की मरम्मत एवं संधारण की अवधि के लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों/केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवं दूर संचार विभाग/रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में 04 कार्य जिसकी कुल लागत राशि रु. 955.45 लाख है, प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेबसाईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in व http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता है। कार्यवार यू.बी.एन. संख्या निम्नानुसार है :—
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Engagement of Young Professionals
Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the engagement of **15 Young Professionals** at the Central Sanskrit University, Delhi, on a contractual basis. For detailed notification regarding eligibility criteria, selection process and submission of applications etc., please visit the University's website **www.sanskrit.nic.in,** under Recruitment Tab. Last date for submission of online application is **31.03.2025 till 06:00 PM.**
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K. Linga Murthy,
Chief General Manager/ Projects, APCPDCL, Vijayawada
DIPR 3567PP/CL, Dt: 07-03-2025 E-mail : cgmproj.cpdcl@apcpdcl.in

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Bids are invited from reputed and experienced Consultants towards **"Preparation of Tourism Development Plan for Visawada, Porbandar, Gujarat".**
The project requirements, technical specifications, eligibility criteria, selection process, etc. are included in the Tender document, which shall be available for download from the websites: **https://tender.nprocure.com/** and **https://www.gujarattourism.com** from **10/03/2025.**
The last date for submission of the Technical Bid and Financial Bid (online only) is 09/04/2025 up to 6:00 pm. and Technical Bid (physical only) is 11/04/2025 up to 3:00 pm.
Managing Director

INBRIEF

Minister Annpurna Devi to lead India's delegation at UN

Union Women and Child Development Minister Annpurna Devi will lead India's delegation at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations headquarters in New York. The session, which begins on Monday, will focus on global progress in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, coinciding with the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. According to a statement by the Women and Child Development Ministry, the Minister will deliver India's national statement at the Commission highlighting the government's initiatives for the holistic development of women and girls under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. PTI

Five suffocate to death while cleaning tank in Mumbai

Five labourers suffocated to death while cleaning a water tank in an under-construction building in south Mumbai on Sunday, officials said. The incident occurred at the Bismillah Space building located on Dimtimkar Road in the Nagpada area around 12.30 p.m., they said. Five workers entered a water tank to clean it but passed out inside while doing the job, said a fire official. Others at the construction site alerted the fire brigade, which rescued the five men and rushed them to the State-run JJ hospital. However, doctors declared them dead, said an official. Officials from the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and local police have reached the spot and a probe is under way, said a police official. PTI

'Having our own foundational AI models is vital as our demography is different'

We need to see AI as something that supports and not replaces, says Centre's Principal Scientific Adviser, highlighting the importance of the country developing its own technology models owing to its unique culture. Amid developments in quantum computing, he says we are at cusp of a new era

INTERVIEW

Ajay Sood

Jacob Koshy

Ajay Sood, prior to being appointed as India's third Principal Scientific Adviser in 2022, was one of India's foremost physicists at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. He explains where India is positioned in the domains of artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum computers. Excerpts:

How do you view the emergence of DeepSeek? Should India be worried and do we have the resources to catch up?

DeepSeek is of course a wake-up call but maybe more for the Americans than for us. I find the claim that it was developed for $5 million implausible and it's probably much more. Recent reports seem to attest to that, and they have assembled 15,000 to 20,000 GPU (graphics processing units) in some other context, and they are using it. Nevertheless, there is innovation involved in making them work in parallel. Instead of doing 660 billion parameters, they did it sector-wise and had ways to connect them in a parallel. That's the breakthrough. Though I must add that others have been using this approach too. Even in India. In our AI Mission, we have addressed several issues. We have the computing resources, and this mission will develop the necessary foundational AI models. You need the data centres where all these computers are available.

The government has floated a tender for the private sector to set up compute facilities. And the government will be the buyer of that. The government may not need all, but whatever it wants. So 18,000 GPU worth of compute is already being planned. There are seven to eight private sector players in India setting up these computing facilities. To develop foundational large language models you need the dataset to train your model. How will you train without compute facilities? That's what is being addressed now.

The way India has now announced an AI Mission and decided to have its own foundational AI models, it seems that we are in a reactive mode. Is it essential that India develop its own models, rather than tweak what's available to custom applications?

SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Having foundational models is mandatory. In fact, we decided on an AI Mission in 2019 at the PM-Science, Technology, Innovation Advisory Council, in which I was a member. But we lost two and a half years to COVID-19. I would not say that we are chasing AI.

Whether we must have our own foundation model or take an open source model and reconfigure is the debate. We have our own demands. We will have our own use cases. Our demography is very different. Our diversity is very different. All that will be needed when you want to train a model. Open AI model will not be trained on our culture. However, we must do both.

As a scientist, do you see the development of AI as generally good for humanity?

My answer is yes. We need to see it as something that supports and not replaces. If AI can automate routine processes, then our people can start from there. There is nothing wrong.

AI appears to be qualitatively different from software because it can often come up with results that people cannot always comprehend.

I agree, but that is why you need explainable AI and people are developing it now. If I get an answer, I should be informed of the source that guided the AI to that answer. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has a report on this. It has taken care of all these things.

Recently, Microsoft claimed success with developing Majorana 1, the first quantum chip to be powered by a Topological Core architecture. How significant is that, especially when quantum computers still aren't solving real-world meaningful problems?

Topological qubits [a way to store quantum information that could lead to more powerful computers] were theoretically known. They have demonstrated an 8-qubit machine. If that is as successful as they say it is, scaling up will be much faster. Topology protects the qubits from defects and disturbances, making them more rugged. That is the whole point of a topo-conductor, and is a triumphant moment.

Thirty years ago, this was basic science, which seemed so hypothetical and impossible, and today it is a reality. I think it's amazing.

Do you think everybody working on quantum computers should pursue this direction of science? Should India too work on Majorana?

There are groups in India who are working. We are not at absolute zero. Question is, they have to take it to the technology.

Microsoft's theoretical physicists and computer and materials scientists all worked on this for 15 years. But they had not given up even though all the hype was on superconducting qubit [a parallel approach to quantum computing], that's the point you have to see. They knew that they were on the right path. We should not be in a rush to just condemn something or throw something. So it's not that superconducting qubits will be out. We have to see because in quantum computing, we still don't know which model will win. And then the next paradigm is quantum AI. This could mean training AI models using quantum computers, I can't even imagine what that will mean. Maybe whole new ways of understanding models and training. That's the beauty of this field. We are at the cusp of a new era.

Assam CM raises concerns over NEET results, to urge Centre for more security

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

He says that despite scoring high marks in the test, the knowledge of many students is limited

The Assam government will urge the Centre to increase the security at NEET centres, including checking the biometrics of candidates at the gate, as it has been found that despite scoring high numbers in the test, the knowledge of many students is limited, Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

Addressing a press conference here after a Cabinet meeting, Mr. Sarma said faculty members at medical colleges in the State had pointed out that students who cracked the entrance examinations with high numbers were not as good as they should have been.

"Many professors told us that many students' practical or academic knowledge is very limited. We had asked the Special Branch to probe the matter around a year and a half ago," he added.

Mr. Sarma said the police had informed the government that most entrance exam centres were private institutes, not government schools or colleges.

"The Cabinet today took three decisions, to request the Central government. The first is to hold the medical entrance exam only in government schools," he added.

The State government would also request the National Testing Agency and the Ministry of Education to conduct the NEET under the direct supervision of the District Commissioners and Superintendents of Police, the Chief Minister said.

"The third request will be to have a biometric testing of the candidates before they enter the exam halls. If these steps are taken, I believe the medical examination process will be transparent," he said.

First rear fuselage for LCA Mk1A manufactured by Indian private sector handed over to HAL

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a first, the rear fuselage for the light combat aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mk1A, manufactured by Alpha Tocol Engineering Services Private Ltd., a private sector enterprise, was handed over to Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) here on Sunday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, who was present, termed the handing over a milestone in the historic journey of India's defence manufacturing sector.

"The ceremony is a testimony to India's progress towards *aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance) in defence, and the government's commitment towards enhanced public-private partnership," Mr. Singh said.

Major milestone: Rajnath Singh with Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh and HAL Chairman and MD D. K. Sunil in Bengaluru. PTI

A fuselage is part of the main body of the aircraft, which holds the pilot, passengers and cargo, while the rear fuselage supports the tail section and its associated components.

HAL had placed orders with various Indian private companies, including Larsen & Toubro Ltd., Alpha Tocol Engineering Services Private Ltd., Tata Advanced Systems Ltd., VEM Technologies Private Ltd., and Lakshmi Machine Works (LMW) Ltd. for supplying major modules for a contract involving 83 LCA Mk1A. HAL has already manufactured 12 LCA MK1A rear fuselages, which are on the aircraft in the manufacturing line.

With this supply, a major structure module produced by an Indian private partner will be integrated into the LCA Mk1A aircraft, enabling HAL to meet additional delivery commitments for the Indian Air Force from 2025-26 onwards.

Minister visits IAM

Mr. Singh visited the Institute of Aerospace Medicine (IAM). He was briefed about the IAM's unique role in pilot training, medical evaluation, and aeromedical research.

He also inspected the dynamic flight simulator, high performance human centrifuge used for high-G training of fighter pilots, and the spatial disorientation simulator for training the pilots of the Armed Forces to avert the risk of spatial disorientation in flight.

He also launched the 'Indian Council of Medical Research Extramural Research Project: Centre for Advanced Research'.

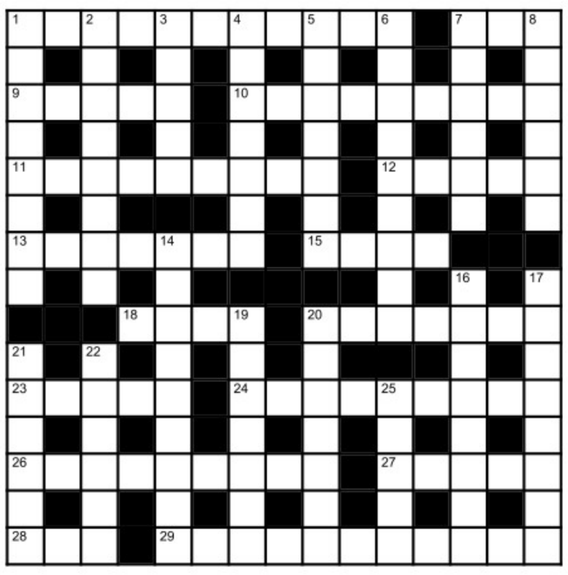
"From the defence perspective, space has emerged as a major domain in warfare. As we are touching new heights in space, we need to explore more possibilities in aerospace medicine. There is a need for increased R&D as research in any high-end complex technology provides benefits to many fields," Mr. Singh said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14428

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Provide support before it takes wings (11)
7 Reduce men, provide guns (3)
9 Reject appeal to include single colour (5)
10 I've agents working, they need to be developed (9)
11 Wild bears have some distance to cover, look grumpy (9)
12 Disposed in June, Judge recused showing malaise (5)
13 Ascertain money is enough to start with (7)
15 The turf laid on top of a mineral... (4)
18 ...on the morning of the festival (4)
20 Fighter in rear action for a nobleman carrying weapons (7)
23 Sovereign rights - invested Guilder regularly (5)
24 Italian bard took the London underground back - it was sort of first outing for her (9)
26 Don Juan has more knowledge about a country (9)
27 Capital has to be invested in American city (5)
28 Mine in North India, millions extracted (3)
29 Ireland applied all remedies (7,4)

Down

1 It's local - a marina to catch some seafood (8)
2 Charm is in being embraced by a towering male, no novice (8)
3 Expert in a fancy car? (5)
4 Base count supporting - extremely interesting (7)
5 On the French ship there is nothing to stand on (7)
6 Rigid aluminium frames to trap furry creature in port (9)
7 Beginning a day passage (6)
8 Said to be big mountainous region (6)
14 Not knowing or caring about one, perhaps (9)
16 Africans and guns - inviting a revolution (8)
17 Near east turmoil, it's toxic stuff (8)
19 Cook made use of jellyfish (7)
20 Canadian province could be ratable (7)
21 Have a look at things above your eyes and tip of the nose (6)
22 Old student found mineral lacking Iodine (6)
25 Fastened around the length and surface covered (5)

SUDOKU

4			1	3				8
		3		2		4	1	
		1						7
1							7	4
			2		7			
9	7							2
3						9		
	1	4		5		8		
2				1	6			3

No.SS6454 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	V	T	C	A			B	
C	R	E	D	O	R	E	D	F
O	N	U	I	E	S	A	K	
M	O	D	I	C	U	M	N	O
B	E	A	E		A	L	O	
A	N	T	E	N	N	A	C	A
T	T			N	O	A		O
	A	R	M	T	W	I	S	T
A			A	A		A		L
B	O	U	N	C	E	R	N	A
I	P	H			O	C	A	H
D	E	P	L	E	T	E	S	H
E	I	T	L		T	N	I	N
S	T	R	E	A	M	E	R	
	Y			S	A	Y	G	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	6	5	7	8	4	2
2	4	8	9	3	1	5	7	6
7	6	5	4	8	2	9	1	3
5	2	1	7	9	8	3	6	4
3	8	7	2	4	6	1	5	9
6	9	4	3	1	5	2	8	7
4	1	2	5	6	9	7	3	8
8	7	6	1	2	3	4	9	5
9	5	3	8	7	4	6	2	1

FAITH

How devotees see Him

Mudal Tiruvandadi is the work of Poigai Azhvar. A pasuram in Mudal Tiruvandadi says Lord Narayana appears just the way His devotees visualise Him. No matter what name His devotees use to refer to Him, Lord Narayana gladly accepts that name. Ramanujacharya demonstrated the importance of this pasuram, said V.S. Karunakarachariar in a discourse. One day Ramanujacharya was going for *bhiksha (seeking alms)*. On one of the streets of Srirangam, a game was in progress. Some boys had built a temple of sand. They placed a stone in it and said that stone was Lord Ranganatha. Sand from the street served as their 'food offering' to Lord Ranganatha. In the Srirangam temple, after food was offered to the deity, it was given to Ramanujacharya, before being distributed to other devotees. The priest would call out to Ramanujacharya, and the Acharya would accept the prasada with devotion.

In imitation of that practice, one of the boys, playing the role of the chief priest of the temple, called out to Ramanujacharya. Another boy, pretending to be the Acharya, stepped forward to receive the prasada. But Ramanujacharya, who had been watching the children, said, "I am Ramanuja. Give me the prasada." The children dropped sand into his *bhiksha* vessel. The Acharya then proceeded on his way. People were waiting to offer rice to him. His disciples suggested that he throw out the sand. But he refused. The children had seen a little stone as Lord Ranganatha and had made an offering to that stone. Ramanujacharya wanted to honour their bhakti. So, he retained the sand in his vessel. This incident shows us the importance of the Poigai Azhvar pasuram.

MONEYWISE

ASKUS

Vaishali R. Venkat

Q I am a senior citizen. I had invested in the National Savings Scheme (NSS) 1987 when I was in service.
I have not withdrawn money from it as I was planning to do it in instalments to minimise tax implications.
I read in the newspapers that from October 1, 2024 no interest would be paid on NSS. If this was true, please answer the following:
1) Whether the account must be closed in full?
2) Can I continue to hold the account without interest and withdraw the balance amount in instalments with the aim of minimising tax?
3) Is there any time limit for the closure of the account?
A.V. NARAYANAN

A As per the gazette notification dated August 29, 2024 issued by the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, "the balances at the credit of the subscribers of the NSS, on or after October, 1, 2024, shall bear no interest at all."
The gazette notification is applicable for both NSS-1987 and NSS-1992 schemes. That is, interest would not be paid for deposits under both the NSS schemes on or after October 1, 2024.
Regarding closure of the NSS account, the Union Budget 2025 had not outrightly mentioned any date.
However, in the early part of 2024, the Union government issued a directive asking people to withdraw their deposits (under both the NSS schemes) by September 2024.
Investors were also informed that even if they continue to maintain funds, no interest would be paid from October 1, 2024. Against this backdrop, it is ideal to stop maintaining funds in such schemes that offer 'zero interest.'

Reinvesting the corpus
Investors (you) can withdraw the accumulated corpus and invest in other financial instruments that pay a reasonable interest.

Now, here comes the problem of taxation. Unlike Public Provident Fund or Employee Provident Fund, NSS does not qualify for the Exempt-Exempt-Exempt (EEE) category.

The EEE category provides triple tax benefits viz.

1) Initial contribution amount (for respective years) could be directly deducted from the total taxable income

2) Interest earned on the investment is tax free and

3) Total amount withdrawn at the time of maturity is tax free.

As NSS does not fall under the EEE category, any amount withdrawn from the NSS is taxable during the year in which it is withdrawn, under the head "Income from other sources."

'Fully tax exempt'
But relax, we've got good news. In the Union Budget 2025, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that any withdrawal made from the NSS account (both NSS-1987 and NSS-1992) on or after August 29, 2024, will be fully exempt from tax.

So, rest assured that if you withdraw your money now, you would not be burdened with the tax liability.

In her Budget speech, Ms. Sitharaman said, "It is proposed to provide exemption to the withdrawals made from National Savings Scheme (NSS) on or after the 29th day of August, 2024, for any amount deposited under the scheme and the interest accrued thereon in respect of which a deduction has been allowed."

Which investment vehicle should be chosen to invest the withdrawn funds purely depends on your risk tolerance and your financial goals - short term, medium term or long term.

However, it would not be a bad idea to invest in a fixed deposit (FD) or a recurring deposit (RD) instead of getting zero interest for invested amount.

Some nationalised banks offer more than 7.25% interest (maybe even a little higher) for senior citizens and the Budget 2025 has also doubled the Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) threshold for senior citizens on interest income from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh.

Above all, we would advise you to take the help of a qualified chartered accountant/financial advisor who could help you manage the funds withdrawn in a much more beneficial/professional manner.

(The writer is a NISM & CRISIL-certified wealth manager)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

ILLUSTRATION: SAAI

Frequent traveller? Save money, effort with a cover

No matter which type of policy you choose, travel insurance is a key safeguard against unforeseen expenses ; it covers medical emergencies, trip cancellations, lost baggage and passport loss

TRAVEL IN PEACE

Meet Kapadia

Imagine planning your perfect getaway – scenic landscapes, cultural explorations and thrilling adventures await. But what if an unexpected medical emergency, lost baggage, or last-minute trip cancellation turns a dream vacation into financial setback?

Travelling is one of life's greatest joys, and as the Dalai Lama famously said, "Once a year, go some place you've never been before." Whether you're craving for a culinary escape, a wellness retreat, or an adrenaline-fuelled expedition, travel opens up a world of possibilities. But let's be real – unexpected mishaps like medical emergencies, lost passports, or flight cancellations can disrupt plans. That's where travel insurance comes in to ensure you are protected.

> If you're travelling to a country where healthcare costs are high, a good travel insurance policy can prevent significant out-of-pocket expenses

Single/multi-trip cover
When it comes to travel insurance, you have two main options: single-trip travel insurance and multi-trip travel insurance.

Single-trip travel insurance covers you for one specific journey, whether domestic or international, for up to 30 days. Your coverage starts when you leave India and ends when you return home or when the policy expires. It's a good option if you travel occasionally and only need protection for a single trip.

Multi-trip travel insurance, on the other hand, is designed for frequent travellers. It covers multiple trips throughout the year. The trip duration in a multi-trip plan can be chosen between 30, 45, 60, and 90 days though the total travel duration across all trips should not exceed 180 days. This flexibility makes it a convenient and cost-effective choice for those who travel regularly for work or leisure.

Travel insurance policies are generally valid for broader geographies rather than specific countries. If you purchase a policy for a region such as Southeast Asia, it will cover multiple destinations within that region, including Thailand, Bali and other nearby countries. This makes it particularly useful for travellers who enjoy visiting different places within the same geographical area.

Saving money
If you travel frequently, a multi-trip travel insurance policy can be a more economical and convenient option. If you take three trips in a year with a sum insured of $2,50,000, a multi-trip policy costs about ₹3,861 while a single-trip policy for all three visits separately costs about ₹6,474. This can save you ₹2,613. The prices are for a 30-day trip duration.

> Reading the fine print is in the policy document is important to understanding what is included and excluded, so you're not caught off guard in case of a claim

Saving time, effort
Beyond cost savings, a multi-trip policy also saves time and effort. Instead of purchasing insurance every time you travel, you have a year-long cover in place, ensuring continuous protection without the hassle of repeated purchases. Multi-trip policies often include baggage loss protection and other enhanced benefits providing comprehensive coverage.

Why it is essential
No matter which type of policy you choose, travel insurance is a key safeguard against unforeseen expenses. It provides coverage for medical emergencies, trip cancellations, lost baggage, and passport loss. If you're travelling to a country where healthcare costs are high, having a good travel insurance policy can prevent significant out-of-pocket expenses. Some policies also offer 24/7 assistance, which can be invaluable in case of emergencies abroad.

Additionally, some countries require travel insurance for visa approval, making it an essential part of your travel planning. Whether you're travelling for leisure or business, having the right coverage ensures you're prepared for any unexpected situations.

Choosing right policy
Before purchasing travel insurance, consider factors such as your destination, the duration of your trip, and the valuables you're carrying. If you plan on engaging in adventure activities, ensure your policy covers them. It's a good idea to compare prices online for better deals. Reading the fine print is crucial to understanding what is included and excluded, so you're not caught off guard in case of a claim.

The bottomline
Travelling is an exciting experience, but being unprepared for unexpected events can be stressful and costly. Whether you travel occasionally or frequently, having the right travel insurance policy can provide financial security and peace of mind.

If you take multiple trips a year, opting for a multi-trip policy can help you save money while ensuring you're covered at all times.

(The writer is Head, Travel Insurance, Policybazaar.com)

Portability in passion assets

THINKINVESTOR

It is optimal to have passion assets in investment portfolio. But you must be mindful of the transportation cost and transit damage, if you relocate often. It is best to start with small collectibles

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Previously, in this column, we talked about passion assets viz. assets that are collectibles and have investment value like art and antiques. Here, we discuss the need to be mindful of portfolio portability when investing in passion assets.

Investment portability
If your professional life requires you to continually relocate, investing in physical assets is not optimal; each time you relocate to a new city, carrying physical assets with you can be expensive. Financial assets are better as they are in an electronic form and offer portability. That said, there are benefits of investing in physical assets (read passion assets).

You can invest in small-sized rare collectibles that are easy to carry when you relocate. There are two reasons to consider such investments. One, you can display these assets till you sell them. So, they offer the unique opportunity of being both a consumption asset and an investment asset. And two, they do not exhibit the degree of volatility you experience with financial assets. Of course, some of it can be attributed to the fact that, unlike shares, passion assets do not have visible prices; less visible the prices, less the perceived volatility. The value for passion assets comes from scarcity, age and narrative. An old ceramic tile may not be a collectible, but it could be if it were to come from, say, a 19th century landmark building.

Note, investment selection is important for passion assets as they are for stocks. You must be mindful of numerous reproductions (read fakes) that are likely to be passed off as antiques. Also, storage costs are an important factor. For instance, humid weather is not good for paintings unless there is a climate-controlled room to store the prized collection. The same can be said for rare and first edition books and manuscripts.

Conclusion
It's optimal to have passion assets in an investment portfolio. But you must be mindful of the transport cost and transit damage, if you relocate often. It is best to start with small-sized rare collectibles and widen your collection when you eventually choose a city as your permanent home.

In your early investment years, you must strike a balance so that you invest in such assets without largely affecting the portfolio's portability. At the extreme, you can let professional firms store paintings and collectibles. But it would mean you cannot enjoy their benefit as a consumption asset.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Bank Fixed Deposit Rates

Bank Name	Interest Rates (%) Highest Slab	1-year Tenure	3-year Tenure	5-year Tenure
Small Finance Banks				
AU Small Finance Bank	8.10	7.25	7.50	7.25
Equitas Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.10	8.00	7.25
ESAF Small Finance Bank	8.38	6.00	6.75	6.25
Jana Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.25	8.25	8.20
NorthEast Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.00	9.00	8.00
Suryoday Small Finance Bank	8.60	8.25	8.25	8.60
Ujjivan Small Finance Bank	8.25	8.10	7.20	7.20
Unity Small Finance Bank	9.00	7.85	8.15	8.15
Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	8.50	8.00	8.50	7.75
Private Sector Banks				
Axis Bank	7.25	6.70	7.10	7.00
Bandhan Bank	8.05	8.05	7.25	5.85
City Union Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.25
CSB Bank	8.00	5.00	5.75	5.75
DBS Bank	7.50	7.00	6.50	6.50
DCB Bank	8.00	7.10	7.50	7.40
Federal Bank	7.50	7.00	7.10	7.10
HDFC Bank	7.40	6.60	7.00	7.00
ICICI Bank	7.25	6.70	7.00	7.00
IDFC FIRST Bank	7.90	6.50	6.80	6.75
IndusInd Bank	7.75	7.75	7.25	7.25
Jammu & Kashmir Bank	7.25	7.00	6.75	6.50
Karur Vysya Bank	7.60	7.00	7.00	7.00
Karnataka Bank	7.50	7.25	6.50	6.50
Kotak Mahindra Bank	7.40	7.10	7.00	6.20
RBL Bank	8.00	7.50	7.50	7.10
SBM Bank India	8.25	7.05	7.30	7.75
South Indian Bank	7.40	6.80	6.70	6.00
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	7.60	7.00	6.50	6.50
YES Bank	8.00	7.75	7.25	7.25
Public Sector Banks				
Bank of Baroda	7.30	6.85	7.15	6.80
Bank of India	7.30	6.80	6.50	6.00
Bank of Maharashtra	7.45	6.75	6.50	6.50
Canara Bank	7.40	6.85	7.40	6.70
Central Bank of India	7.50	6.85	7.00	6.75
Indian Bank	7.30	6.10	6.25	6.25
Indian Overseas Bank	7.30	7.10	6.50	6.50
Punjab National Bank	7.25	6.80	7.00	6.50
Punjab & Sind Bank	7.45	6.30	6.00	6.00
State Bank of India	7.25	6.80	6.75	6.50
Union Bank of India	7.30	6.80	6.70	6.50

Home Loan Interest Rates

Name of Lender	Loan Amount (Rs.) Upto 30 lakh	Above 30 lakh & upto 75 lakh	Above 75 lakh
			(In %)
Public Sector Banks			
State Bank of India	8.25-9.40	8.25-9.40	8.25-9.40
Bank of Baroda	8.15-10.40	8.15-10.40	8.15-10.65
Punjab National Bank	8.20-10.00	8.15-9.90	8.15-9.90
Bank of India	8.25-10.60	8.25-10.60	8.25-10.85
UCO Bank*	8.30 #	8.30 #	8.30 #
Bank of Maharashtra	8.10-10.90	8.10-10.90	8.10-10.90
Punjab and Sind Bank	8.35-9.85	8.35-9.85	8.35-9.85
Indian Overseas Bank	8.15-10.75	8.15-10.75	8.15-10.75
Indian Bank	8.15-9.55	8.15-9.55	8.15-9.55
Private Sector Banks			
Kotak Mahindra Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
ICICI Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Axis Bank	8.75-12.80	8.75-12.80	8.75-9.65
HSBC Bank	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
South Indian Bank	8.50 #	8.50 #	8.50 #
Karur Vysya Bank	8.75-11.70	8.75-11.70	8.75-11.70
Karnataka Bank	8.94-11.06	8.94-11.06	8.94-9.59
Federal Bank	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
Dhanlaxmi Bank	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95	8.60-9.95
Bandhan Bank	8.91-15.00	8.91-13.08	8.91-13.08
RBL Bank	9.00 #	9.00 #	9.00 #
CSB Bank	10.24-12.09	10.24-12.09	10.24-12.09
HDFC Bank Ltd.	8.70 #	8.70 #	8.70 #
City Union Bank	10.35-15.75	10.15-15.75	10.15-14.05
Housing Finance Companies (HFCs)			
LIC Housing Finance	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
Bajaj Housing Finance	8.25 #	8.25 #	8.25 #
Tata Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
PNB Housing Finance	8.50-14.50	8.50-14.50	8.50-11.45
GIC Housing Finance	8.80 #	8.80 #	8.80 #
SMFG India Home Finance	10.00 #	10.00 #	10.00 #
Sammaan Capital	8.75 #	8.75 #	8.75 #
Aditya Birla Capital	8.60 #	8.60 #	8.60 #
ICICI Home Finance	9.30 #	9.30 #	9.30 #
Godrej Housing Finance	8.55 #	8.55 #	8.55 #

*Additional concession of 0.10% for takeover loans
#Onwards Rates as on March 5 Source:Paisabazaar.com

BERLIN

Germany's Merz is open to France extending its nuclear deterrent

REUTERS

Germany's Friedrich Merz reiterated he was open to France extending its nuclear deterrent in Europe. "We simply must become stronger together in nuclear deterrence in Europe," Mr. Merz, expected to become Germany's next Chancellor after his conservatives won last month's elections, said in an interview. AFP

TOKYO

Japan's worst wildfire in 50 years brought under control: mayor

AFP

Japan's worst wildfire in more than half a century, which killed at least one person, has been brought under control, the Mayor of the northern city of Ofunato said. The fire had raged in the mountains around the rural region since February 26, damaging at least 210 buildings and forcing more than 4,200 to flee their homes. AFP

BANGKOK

Twin attacks in Thailand's troubled south kill five, wound 13 persons

AFP

Five persons were killed and more than a dozen wounded in two attacks in Thailand's troubled south, the police said on Sunday. A low-level conflict has simmered in Thailand's southernmost provinces since 2004, killing more than 7,000 people, as rebels in the Muslim-majority region battle for greater autonomy. AFP

JERUSALEM

Israel's Energy Minister orders stoppage of power supply to Gaza

AFP

Israel's Energy Minister Eli Cohen on Sunday said he had given instructions to stop supplying electricity to Gaza, a week after Israel blocked all aid into the war-ravaged Palestinian territory. "We will use all the tools at our disposal to bring back the hostages and ensure that Hamas is no longer in Gaza the day after" the war. AFP

Killing of civilians in Syria must cease, says UN

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

The United Nations on Sunday said that reports of entire families being killed in northwestern Syria was "extremely disturbing" and the global body called for an immediate halt to the violence.

UN rights chief Volker Turk demanded prompt investigations into the killings and said those responsible must be held to account.

Mr. Turk said in a statement: "There are reports of summary executions on a sectarian basis by unidentified perpetrators, by members of the caretaker authorities' security forces, as well as by elements associated with the former government."

'More than 1,000 killed in Syrian communal clashes'

Interim President Jolani calls for peace following clashes between forces linked to the new Islamist rulers and fighters from dethroned President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite community

Reuters
CAIRO/AMMAN

Syrian leader Muhammad al-Jolani [Ahmed Sharaa] called for peace on Sunday after hundreds were killed in coastal areas in the worst communal violence since the fall of Bashar al-Assad.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a British-based war monitor, said on Saturday more than 1,000 people had been killed in the two days of fighting in the Mediterranean coastal region in some of the worst violence in a 13-year-old conflict.

"We have to preserve national unity and domestic peace, we can live together," Jolani, the interim President, said as clashes continued between forces linked to the new Islamist rulers and fighters from Mr. Assad's Alawite sect.

Spiralling violence: A gunman fires shots in the air during a rally called by Syrian activists in Damascus on Sunday. AFP

"Rest assured about Syria, this country has the characteristics for survival," Jolani said in a circulated video. "What is currently happening in Syria is within the expected challenges."

Mr. Assad was overthrown last December after decades of dynastic rule by his family marked by severe repression and a devastating civil war.

Syrian security sources said at least 200 of their members were killed in the clashes with former Army personnel owing allegiance to Mr. Assad. The attacks spiralled into revenge killings when thousands of armed supporters of Syria's new leaders from across the country descended to the coastal areas to support beleaguered forces of the new administration.

Israel strikes Gaza ahead of ceasefire talks with Hamas

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Israel carried out an air strike on militants in northern Gaza on Sunday, rattling an already fragile ceasefire as it prepared for fresh talks in Doha on the future of its truce with Hamas.

Despite the end of the truce's initial phase a week ago, both sides have refrained from returning to all-out war, though there have been sporadic episodes of violence. Sunday's air strike was the latest of daily strikes reported by Israel since Thursday.

The Palestinian militant group has repeatedly called for an immediate start to negotiations on the ceasefire's second phase, which was negotiated by the United States, Qatar and Egypt aiming to bring a permanent end to the war.

Popular sentiment: A rally organised by relatives of Israeli hostages in front of the Israeli Defence Ministry in Tel Aviv. AFP

Israel says it prefers an extension of phase one until mid-April, and cut off aid to Gaza over the impasse.

Hamas representatives met mediators in Cairo over the weekend, emphasising the urgent need to resume humanitarian aid deliveries to the territory "without restrictions or conditions", a Hamas statement said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said it would send delegates to Doha on Monday, and Israeli media reported the Security Cabinet would discuss the matter later on Sunday.

U.S. ends waiver on Iraq for electricity purchases from Iran

Associated Press
BAGHDAD

The United States has declined to renew a waiver that had allowed Iraq to buy electricity from Iran without running afoul of sanctions, a U.S. official said on Sunday.

The previous waiver expired on Saturday and the U.S. Department of State did not renew it, the U.S. embassy in Baghdad said in a statement.

The decision came as part of U.S. President Donald Trump's "maximum pressure campaign" on Iran.

"We urge the Iraqi government to eliminate its dependence on Iranian sources of energy as soon as possible, and welcome the Iraqi Prime Minister's commitment to achieve energy independence," the statement said.

Despite its oil and gas wealth, Iraq has suffered from decades of electricity shortages because of war, corruption and mismanagement and has become heavily reliant on imported Iranian gas as well as electricity imported directly from Iran to meet its electricity needs.

Power outages are common, especially in the scorching summer months. Many Iraqis have to rely on diesel generators or suffer through temperatures that exceed 50 °C.

China military warns of 'tightening noose' around Taiwan

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

The comments come against the backdrop of increased calls of separatism on the self-ruled island

China's military vowed on Sunday to tighten its "noose" around Taiwan if separatism on the island escalated, warning independence proponents to step back from the "precipice".

Beijing considers the self-ruled island of Taiwan to be part of its territory and has not ruled out using military force to claim it.

"The more rampant 'Taiwan independence' separatists become, the tighter the noose around their necks and the sharper the sword hanging over their heads will be," Army spokesman Wu Qian said in an interview published by state broadcaster CCTV.

"The PLA is a force of action in countering separatism and promoting reunification," said Wu, using an acronym for China's military.

The comments, made during China's "Two Sessions" annual political gathering, come days after Beijing announced a 7.2% increase to its Defence Budget in 2025.

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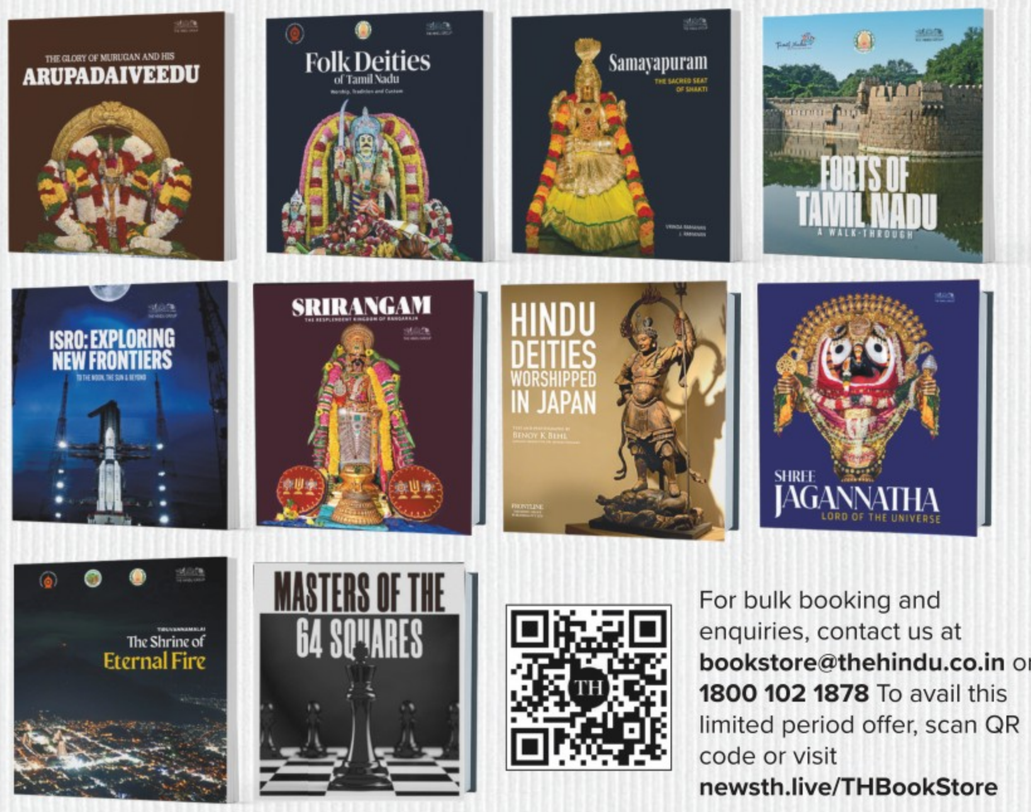

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Nepal's former King arrives in Kathmandu amid tight security

Press Trust of India
KATHMANDU

Nepal's former King Gyanendra Shah on Sunday arrived here amidst tight security, as pro-monarchy activists gathered at the airport to welcome him.

As soon as Mr. Gyanendra landed at the Tribhuvan International Airport from Pokhara on board the Simrik Air helicopter, hundreds of loyalists, including leaders and cadres of pro-monarchists Rastriya Prajatantra Party, started chanting slogans in his favour.

'Reinstate monarchy'

The crowd carried placards with slogans such as "We want our King back," "Abolish federal republican system and reinstate the monarchy," and "The King and the country are dearer than our life."

Former King Gyanendra Shah of Nepal waves upon his arrival at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu on Sunday. AP

Mr. Gyanendra, 77, returned to Kathmandu from Pokhara after visiting religious places in different parts of the country.

His supporters have been rallying in parts of the country, including Kathmandu and Pokhara, for the past few days, demanding the reinstatement of the monarchy abolished in 2008 following the People's Movement.

Prominent religious scholar killed in Pakistan

Press Trust of India
PESHAWAR

Mufti Shah Mir, a prominent Pakistani scholar, was shot dead by unknown gunmen in Balochistan province, according to a media report.

Mir was targeted in the Turbat town of Kech on Friday when he was leaving a mosque after night prayers, the *Dawn* newspaper said.

Mufti Shah Mir was close to the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam-F (JUI-F). He previously survived two attempts on his life. The attack came days after two leaders of JUI-F were shot dead in Khuzdar.

CHAMPION'S WISH

I want to leave the team in better place when I retire, says Kohli

PTI

Virat Kohli said his job is not just to win ICC trophies but also ensure that Indian cricket is at a better place when he walks into the sunset. "So much talent in the dressing room, they're trying to take their game further and we're just happy to be of help (role of the seniors), sharing our experience and that's what makes this team so strong".

GREAT FEELING

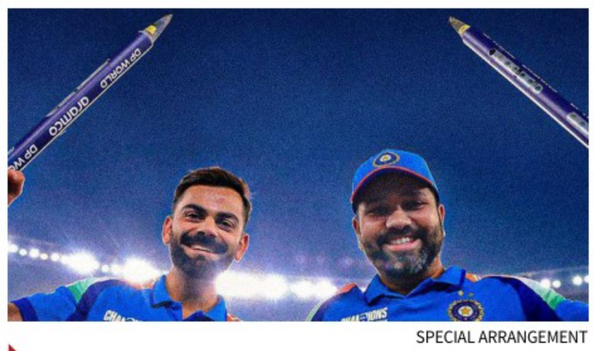
I thrive under pressure, thrilled with my contribution: Shreyas

AP

Shreyas Iyer was over the moon after the win. "Feeling ecstatic, it's ineffable, hard to put it into words. It's my first ICC trophy. The way everyone has performed, it's been great. To be honest, I love to play under pressure, I feel like I thrive under pressure. I've been getting into such situations and it was great to contribute to the win".

FANTASTIC FOUR

Rohit, Kohli notch up impressive record in ICC tournaments



SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma are now the two Indian cricketers with the most ICC trophies. While Rohit has won two T20 World Cups (2007 and 2024) and two Champions Trophy (2013 and 2025), Kohli has the winner's medal from the 2011 World Cup, 2013 Champions Trophy, 2024 T20 World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy.

FRANKLY SPEAKING

Santner admits losing to a better side while praising his team

PTI

New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner had no qualms in admitting that his team lost to a better side in the final. "It's been a good tournament. We have been challenged along the way but we have grown as a group. We lost to a better side. Everyone contributed to the tournament and put their hands up at different times".

Rohit's men assert their supremacy in gripping final

The skipper leads from the front with a blistering innings while Shreyas, Rahul weigh in with crucial contributions after the spinners restrict New Zealand to 251; Bracewell's all-round show in vain

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

Expectations can be a double-edged sword in elite sport. The pre-tournament favourite team or an athlete winning a title could be taken for granted while failure could invariably attract intense criticism.

India was in this unenviable situation. But over the course of the last three weeks, the Men in Blue went about their business in clinical and methodical fashion to emerge triumphant beating New Zealand by four wickets in a pulsating summit clash at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday.

The victory, though, did not come easy. India had one of, if not the most balanced squads in the competition, and the flexibility and depth in every position was unparalleled. Against a dogged Black Caps unit, Rohit Sharma's men had to dig deep into the last ounce of talent in the dugout to cross the final hurdle.

Striking gold: India capped a dazzling run with an exciting four-wicket win in the summit clash. The triumph made the Men in Blue the most successful side in Champions Trophy history. GETTY IMAGES

In pursuit of 252, skipper Rohit (76) took the bull by the horns. He pulled the second ball of the chase from Kyle Jamieson for a six and threw down the gauntlet.

Over the next hour, in a stroke-filled display of power-hitting, he charged down to the pacers, smashed forcefully through the off-side and even brought out the lap-shot en route his first half-century of the competition. However, three quick wickets, including Rohit's, saw India slip from 105 for no loss to 122 for three.

But the in-form Shreyas Iyer, as he had done a few times in this event, soaked up the pressure and stroked a vital 48 mixing caution and aggression.

Able ally

He found good support from Axar Patel as they stitched a 61-run stand for the fourth wicket. The Kiwi spinners, though, did not throw in the towel and removed the set batters to keep the match evenly poised.

Fortunately for India, K.L. Rahul (34 n.o.) eased the nerves of a billion fans with another measured knock and Ravindra Jadeja, whose brilliant spell helped restrict New Zealand to a modest total, fittingly hit the winning runs with a boundary through the leg side. Earlier, Mitchell Santner's men managed 251 for seven after electing to bat riding on half-centuries from Daryl Mitchell (63) and Michael Bracewell (53 n.o.).

As has been the case throughout this tournament, the Indian spinners dominated the middle overs and squeezed the runs dry.

The spin quartet sent down 38 overs and gave away only 144 runs while taking five wickets.

Rachin Ravindra got his side off to a flyer in the PowerPlay as the Kiwis raced to 69 for one. The southpaw cut loose against Hardik Pandya smashing him for a six and two fours in the fourth over.

He then pocketed a brace of boundaries off Mohammed Shami, forcing Rohit to bring his trump card Varun Chakaravarthy to bowl the sixth. The mystery spinner duly delivered in his second over, trapping Will Young leg-before.

Kuldeep Yadav then put the brakes firmly on the scoring rate by striking twice in his first two overs. The left-arm wrist spinner castled Rachin off his first ball with a wrong 'un and had Kane Williamson caught and bowled.

Accurate

On a pitch that did not offer much turn, Jadjea and Axar were impeccably accurate, targeting the stumps and further tightened the screws through their miserly spells.

Towards the end, Bracewell smashed a few sixes off Shami and Hardik to give the innings much-needed momentum as the Black Caps managed 79 in the last 10 overs to reach a respectable score.

But on a day when India's batting depth came to the fore, it proved to be a few runs short.

SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND

Will Young lbw b Varun 15 *(23b, 2x4)*, Rachin Ravindra b Kuldeep 37 *(29b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Kane Williamson c & b Kuldeep 11 *(14b, 1x4)*, Daryl Mitchell c Rohit b Shami 63 *(101b, 3x4)*, Tom Latham lbw b Jadeja 14 *(30b)*, Glenn Phillips b Varun 34 *(52b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Michael Bracewell (not out) 53 *(40b, 3x4, 2x6)*, Mitchell Santner run out 8 *(10b)*, Nathan Smith (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-3, w-13) 16; Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs): 251.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-57 (Young, 7.5 overs), 2-69 (Rachin, 10.1), 3-75 (Williamson, 12.2), 4-108 (Latham, 23.2), 5-165 (Phillips, 37.5), 6-211 (Mitchell, 45.4), 7-239 (Santner, 48.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Shami 9-0-74-1, Hardik 3-0-30-0, Varun 10-0-45-2, Kuldeep 10-0-40-2, Axar 8-0-29-0, Jadeja 10-0-30-1.

INDIA

Rohit Sharma st. Latham b Ravindra 76 *(83b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Shubman Gill c Phillips b Santner 31 *(50b, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli lbw b Bracewell 1 *(2b)*, Shreyas Iyer c Rachin b Santner 48 *(62b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Axar Patel c O'Rourke b Bracewell 29 *(40b, 1x4, 1x6)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 34 *(33b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Hardik Pandya c & b Jamieson 18 *(18b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 9 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-8): 8; Total (for six wkts. in 49 overs): 254.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-105 (Gill, 18.4), 2-106 (Kohli, 19.1), 3-122 (Rohit, 26.1), 4-183 (Shreyas, 38.4), 5-203 (Axar, 41.3), 6-241 (Hardik, 47.3).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Jamieson 5-0-24-1, O'Rourke 7-0-56-0, Smith 2-0-22-0, Santner 10-0-46-2, Rachin 10-1-47-1, Bracewell 10-1-28-2, Phillips 5-0-31-0.

India won by four wickets with one over to spare.

Toss: New Zealand.

PoM: Rohit.

PoS: Rachin.

No plans to retire, says Rohit after leading team to record third crown

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

Rohit Sharma reserved his best for the last on and off the field. The skipper guided the Men in Blue to a record third ICC Champions Trophy title by top-scoring in the final.

Later, Rohit was at his chirpy best in the post-match press conference. After patiently answering questions from the scribes for more than 20 minutes, Rohit left the stage with a parting shot that will bring joy to fans worldwide.

"I am not going to retire from this format. I want to make sure that no rumours are spread," said Rohit as he exited the room.

On the team's triumph, the 37-year-old remarked that he was pleased that everyone contributed to the team's cause.

"In this tournament, we have seen that from the first match till now, all the boys have contributed. If you see from No.1 to 11, the boys who have had the chance to bat or bowl, they contributed in their own way. Eventually, when everyone plays together and a lot of people contribute, you get a lot of success consistently."

Rohit, who has now led India to its second consecutive ICC white-ball crown, commented on his performance: "I did the same thing today [as in the previous games]. I wanted to score in the PowerPlay as once the field spreads out it becomes difficult [to score]. So you have to take chances at the top. I pick the bowlers and the spots to hit."

"You may not see consistency in scores, but I know what I'm doing. I changed my game after 10 overs. You get a lot of happiness when you win a match, and when you make a contribution to it, it feels even better. In the 2019 World Cup I had a good run but we didn't win the title. It was not fun".

The orchestrators: Rahul and Jadeja savour the winning moment. Kuldeep exults with Rohit and Rahul after cutting short Rachin's stay. Rohit celebrates with the trophy. PTI, AP & ANI

Magnificent seven

INDIA'S ICC TITLES

1983	ODI World Cup
2002	Champions Trophy (joint winner)
2007	World T20
2011	ODI World Cup
2013	Champions Trophy
2024	T20 World Cup
2025	Champions Trophy

When you win the finals of any tournament, and especially for India, we know that wherever we play, we get good support. So, winning this trophy makes the whole team so happy that we did it for our country

INBRIEF

Wade returns to the Titans dugout as assistant coach

Former Australia wicketkeeper-batter Matthew Wade returned to the Gujarat Titans team for the IPL 2025 campaign, this time as an assistant coach. The former southpaw has joined the franchise's support staff, which includes Ashish Nehra (head coach), Parthiv Patel (batting coach), Aashish Kapoor, and Narender Negi (assistant coaches). As a player, Wade represented Titans in 12 matches over two seasons and scored 161 runs.

Takeda shoots an eight-under, clinches second LPGA title

Rio Takeda shot a blistering 8-under 64 on Sunday to win the LPGA's Blue Bay tournament in Sanya (China) by six shots ahead of Minjee Lee of Australia, the second LPGA title for the young Japanese. The 21-year-old Takeda finished on 17-under 271 for the four rounds on China's southern island of Hainan. She opened with rounds of 69-69-69 before carding the 64. Lee closed with a 67 to finish on 277 with Japanese Ayaka Furue a further shot back after a 68 to finish on 10-under 278. Takeda had won her first LPGA title four months ago, taking the Toto Japan Classic in a six-hole sudden-death playoff. Jeeno Thitikul, the LPGA's No. 2-ranked player, closed with a disappointing 74 and was 13 strokes off the pace.

Curry 26th in NBA history to score 25,000 career points

Stephen Curry became the 26th player in NBA history to score 25,000 career points, reaching the milestone during the third quarter of the Golden State Warriors' game against the Detroit Pistons in San Francisco on Saturday. Curry, who turns 37 next Friday, surpassed 25,000 with a 3-pointer at the 8:32 mark of the third quarter, then received a warm ovation when recognised during a timeout. His next task is becoming the first in the league to make 4,000 3-pointers.

Failure to qualify for playoffs will hurt Royal Challengers Bengaluru

Smriti & Co.'s five-match losing streak began with four reverses on home turf; the absence of key players did not help the team's cause

WPL

Vivek Krishnan
MUMBAI

Disappointing campaign: RCB's title defence ended with a whimper. PTI

In a Women's Premier League (WPL) season that has spanned more venues than the previous two years, Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) would have perhaps preferred not taking the journey from Lucknow to Mumbai for the last leg of the tournament.

Its fate is sealed, after all, following Saturday night's defeat to UP Warriorz at the Ekana Cricket Stadium. There is a league encounter against Mumbai Indians remaining, but the defending champion has nothing more than a bit-part role to play in the business end at Brabourne Stadium.

While missing out on a top-three spot in the five-team event isn't catastrophic in a format where margins between victory and defeat are minuscule, not winning a single game since beating Delhi Capitals in Vadodara on February 17 is bound to hurt the franchise. Its five-match losing streak includes four on home turf in Bengaluru, although one boiled down to a Super Over. "The first two games we played in Bengaluru, we had a real chance of winning those. We just let ourselves down in really crucial moments. Losing four on the trot at home was not ideal for us," spinner Georgia Wareham told reporters on Saturday.

Even before a ball was bowled this season, RCB's title defence had setbacks to surmount. Injuries meant Shreyanka Patil, Sophie Molineux and Asha Sobhana – the top three wicket-takers in WPL 2024 with 37 scalps among them – played no part in the tournament. Star all-rounder Sophie Devine took a break for personal reasons.

The absence of these figures resulted in gaps too big to plug. Wareham has picked up 11 wickets and Renuka Singh has chipped in with 10, but RCB's dire display with the ball against Warriorz was emblematic of the troubles.

"Yeah, there were massive setbacks," Wareham conceded. "Not having Shreyanka in the team this year has been a little bit tricky. Missing Molineux and Devine definitely changed things as well. I guess I had a little bit of a different role this year. I probably leaked a few too many runs this year."

While Wareham didn't pin blame on the batting unit, Ellyse Perry and Richa Ghosh didn't enjoy enough support right through the season. Skipper Smriti Mandhana, in particular, has underwhelmed with 144 runs in seven innings.

Djokovic crashes out; Alcaraz sails through

TENNIS

Agence France-Presse
INDIAN WELLS

Big scalp: Van de Zandschulp held his nerve to oust Djokovic. GETTY IMAGES

Five-time champion Novak Djokovic tumbled out of the Indian Wells ATP Masters on Saturday, falling in his first match to lucky loser Botic van de Zandschulp as two-time defending champ Carlos Alcaraz advanced.

"No excuses for a poor performance," the 24-time Grand Slam champion Djokovic said after 37 unforced errors in a 6-2, 3-6, 6-1 defeat.

Djokovic is just the latest in van de Zandschulp's string of superstar victims.

He stunned Alcaraz at the US Open last year before beating Rafael Nadal in the Davis Cup in what proved the Spanish great's last match.

"I think I kept my cool during the whole match," said van de Zandschulp.

Italian Matteo Arnaldi sprung another upset, beating seventh seed Andrey Rublev 6-4, 7-5. Djokovic and Rublev followed top seed Alexander Zverev and fourth seed Casper Ruud as second-round casualties.

With Zverev out and world number one Jannik Sinner serving a three-month drugs ban, world number three Alcaraz is the highest seed left in the men's draw. Alcaraz, trying to join Djokovic and Roger Federer as the only men to win three straight Indian Wells titles, eased into his defence with a 6-4, 6-2 victory over France's Quentin Halys.

Women's world number one Aryna Sabalenka opened her campaign with a 7-6 (7/4, 6-3 victory over rising US talent McCartney Kessler.

Flawless Dmitruk outplays Makarova for the title

Kamesh Srinivasan
GURUGRAM

Smiles all around: Makarova and Dmitruk, winner of the ITF women's tennis tournament in Gurugram. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Kristina Dmitruk came up with a flawless display to outplay second seed Ekaterina Makarova 6-3, 6-2 in the final of the $30,000 ITF women's tennis tournament at the Tennis Project on Sunday.

The 29-year-old Makarova, who was ranked a career best 158 last year and had won the doubles title with Ekaterina Reyngold, did fight hard, pushing Dmitruk to her wit's end in tough rallies.

However, the 21-year-old Dmitruk, who was World No. 2 at the prime of her junior career in 2021, served strong and converted her chances better to race away to victory.

The smooth-stroking Dmitruk converted four of five break points while dropping serve once, early in the second set.

She raised her level of play and closed out the match in an hour and 17 minutes for her sixth title in the professional circuit.

Quite delighted with her consistently strong performance, Kristina gave credit to her brother for being on hand and playing the role of a mental trainer.

Dmitruk did drop a set to Priska Nugroho of Indonesia in the first round, but thereafter, she lost only 15 games in all in the next four matches.

The results (final):

Kristina Dmitruk bt Ekaterina Makarova 6-3, 6-2.

NRAI strengthens technical officials with EST course

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) successfully completed the second ISSF Electronic Scoring Target (EST) course at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range on Sunday.

The five-day course had 32 participants, including three from Nepal and one from Sri Lanka.

The first course was held from February 24 to 28 at the same venue, and the integrated course dealt with the technicalities of rifle and pistol.

The event was conducted by Jadranka Strukic of Croatia, Khaled Aljerayed of Kuwait and Pawankumar Singh. The course combined theoretical instruction with practical exercises, to ensure full comprehension of EST operations.

As part of the technical education exercise, the participants will have to go through five mandatory internships as officials in NRAI-sanctioned tournaments.

"This is the largest batch in a course that I have conducted anywhere in the world. The EST license is very important for officials who aspire to work as rifle and pistol jury members in international competitions.

"It is also mandatory for anyone wishing to work in the results, timing and scoring (RTS) team at ISSF events to hold a valid EST license. This certification ensures officials are fully trained to handle the latest technology with precision and confidence," said Strukic.

We needed a goal-scorer, Manolo on coaxing Chhetri out of retirement

FOOTBALL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Making a point: Manolo has seen the team struggle to score goals. FILE PHOTO: EMMANUAL YOGINI

The national side needs a goal scorer and there is no better player in the country to do the job than Sunil Chhetri, the present coach of the senior Indian men's football team, Manolo Marquez, said about his decision to coax the iconic striker out of retirement.

"At this moment he is the best Indian striker. I think there is no doubt about this," Manolo said, spelling out the reason as to why he reached out to Chhetri to convince him to come out of retirement.

Clear plan

"Sunil is the top goal scorer among the Indian players in ISL (12 goals) and Brison (Fernandes) is second highest scorer (7). We need players who can score goals, my thinking is clear about this," Manolo said after FC Goa, the club team he helms, lost the final league match of the ISL against Mohun Bagan Super Giant.

Manolo, who in an unprecedented move, took charge of the Indian team in July last year while remaining coach of FC Goa, has seen the Indian side struggle for goals in the few international matches it played under him.

"This is the reason that I spoke with him (Sunil) personally. Obviously because it is a difficult situation for the Indian team," Manolo said.

Goals wanted

"In my four games with the national team we scored just two goals, one from open play and the other one from a set-piece. We need to score more goals. This is the national team and we need immediate results," Manolo said about his decision as India prepared for the final round qualifiers of Asian Cup 2027.

India plays its first match against Bangladesh at Shillong on March 25.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bhandavya stars in South Western Railway's title win

Bhandavya scored 23 points as South Western Railway beat Beagles BC 75-66 to win the Mathru Cup SMN Memorial State women's basketball championship on Saturday.

The results:

Final: SWR 75 (Bhandavya 23, Sathya 17, Sathiya 17) bt Beagles BC 66 (Sanjana Ramesh 26, Chandana 13, Mekhala 13).

Third-place: DYES Mysore 51 (Jeshtnavi 14, Preethi 11) bt Mounts Club 49 (Nidhi 24, Niharika 14).

Guruprasad and Thejawai triumph

Guruprasad and N.L. Thejawai emerged the male and female 10K winners respectively at the Karnataka State Police Run on Sunday.

Guruprasad came home in 31:05s while Thejawai crossed the finish line in 38:17s.

In the open category, Lokesh Chaudhary (30:08s) and Lili Das (34:57s) were victorious.

Hat-trick by Yeshwanth as Shlok HC runs riot

Yeshwanth came up with a hat-trick as Shlok HC thrashed SBM Jain University 7-1 in the KSHA - BHA Super Division hockey league here on Sunday.

The result:

Shlok 7 (Yeshwanth 11, 19, 26, Prajwal Moharkar 20, Venkatesh Kenche 18, 27, Sandeep 47) bt SBM Jain University 1 (Shravan 31).

LIVE TELECAST

WPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

What is the road ahead for cricket's middle-child?

ODIs have been caught between the classical Tests and the fast-paced T20Is; however, the eight-team tournament has potentially shown a way for the survival and future of the 50-over format

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

In psychology, there is a theory called the 'middle-child syndrome'. One of the inferences is that the middle child in a family – stuck between the older and younger siblings – feels neglected or starved of parental love and attention.

In recent times, the ODI game has become cricket's middle child caught between the classical Tests and the fast-paced T20Is. It has been denied love and proper care from the players and administrators except once every four years when the 50-over World Cup occurs.

After the inaugural World Cup in 1975, ODIs helped grow the sport over the next three decades, raking in the moolah and helping cricket join the big league in terms of commercial value despite its relatively small footprint and reach.

Excitement aplenty: The Champions Trophy, returning after an eight-year hiatus, has provided the much-needed attention on one-dayers. AFP

Eight years ago, the apex body pulled the plug because it felt there wasn't a need for two ICC events in one format
However, in 2021, the governing body reversed course and revived the tournament in a bid to get the ODI version back on its feet

Confluence of events

During the final decade of the 20th century, the format breathed fresh air into the sport thanks to a confluence of events led by the sub-continental teams. Some factors include India's booming economy, Pakistan (1992) and Sri Lanka (1996) becoming world champions, and Bangladesh qualifying for its first World Cup in 1999.

To capitalise on the success, the International Cricket Council started another multi-nation tournament, the ICC KnockOut Trophy or the 'mini World Cup,' in 1998 (Dhaka, Bangladesh) to fill its coffers and spread the game.

After the second edition (Kenya 2000), it was renamed the ICC Champions Trophy in 2002. The event was held every two years until 2006 and became a quadrennial event from 2009 to 2017 before being discontinued.

Following the inaugural ICC World Twenty20 in 2007, it became evident that T20s would be the future of cricket. The Indian Premier League, which started in 2008, further shifted the audience to the three-hour version of the game, leading to the mushrooming of similar leagues across the cricket-playing world.

At a time when the one-day format was and is fighting for relevance, the Champions Trophy suffered an identity crisis. Eight years ago, the apex body pulled the plug because it felt there wasn't a need for two ICC events in one format.

However, in 2021, the governing body reversed course and revived the tournament in a bid to get the ODI version back on its feet. The bilateral ODI series, once the cash cow for cricket boards, has become meaningless sans context. But over the last few months, teams scrambled to play some ODI games to prepare for the Champions Trophy in front of packed stadiums.

Key factor

Recently, England skipper Jos Buttler said for ODIs to thrive, the presence of top players will hold the key. A world event once every two years, alternating between the CT and World Cup, could keep the big stars invested.

Over the last three weeks, a tournament that once symbolised the sport's health has potentially shown a way for the survival and future of the 50-over format.

It's better late than never and everything has come together now, says Aravindh

CHESS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Aravindh Chithambaram is the new poster boy of Indian chess.

The 25-year-old, considered a late bloomer and one whom his coach R. B. Ramesh said, "is the most talented player after Viswanathan Anand", has again made waves by winning the Prague Masters on Friday after defeating strong contenders such as the Dutchman Anish Giri, Wei Yi of China and Germany's Vincent Keymer.

With two classical titles in a span of four months, what has changed for Aravindh? "It's better late than never. I don't know what exactly happened. Something has changed. I am unable figure it out. Everything has come together" Aravindh told *The Hindu* here on Sunday.

Aravindh with his reward for winning the Prague Masters.
COURTESY: PRAGUE CHESS FESTIVAL

According to the Chennai GM, the Prague win was sweet because he played some really good games and enjoyed all of them. "I loved my games with Anish Giri, Wei and Keymer. With Anish, I found a good sequence of moves (Queen h4 and Knight g5). I took a risky opening. Generally, it's considered to be objectively bad. According to the engine and general analysis, the move was considered risky. I thought why not try this. It turned out to be a good decision," he said.

Against the Chinese GM, Aravindh said it was preparation that helped him secure a win. "It's very hard to beat Wei. In general, Chinese are very hard to beat. But with Wei, I was well prepared."

Against Keymer, Aravindh played the Queen's Gambit Accepted, a unique opening . "It's a rare line for which Keymer was not prepared," said the Prague Masters champion.

Indian men's chess, opined Aravindh, is so strong that the country can field as many as three if not two teams for Olympiads in the future.

"We might be having two strong teams that will be contender for Olympiads. We can even go even with three teams. That's the quality of Indian chess," he said.

Aravindh has played quite a few games of Freestyle chess, which some consider as the future. The reigning Chennai GM tournament winner, however, said both classical and freestyle chess will coexist.

Aravindh's coach Ramesh said whenever he seemed to be doing well, self-doubts pulled him down.

"He is very talented, in fact the most talented after five-time world champion Anand. But at that time, he was not believing in himself. Self-doubt was his main stumbling block. Now, he is sure about himself," said Ramesh.

Real Kashmir sees off Aizawl; Gokulam nets thrice against Rajasthan United

I-LEAGUE

Press Trust of India
SRINAGAR

Real Kashmir FC moved to third spot in the I-League standings with a hard fought 2-1 win over relegation-battling Aizawl FC at the TRC Turf Ground here on Sunday.

Real Kashmir's fifth straight home win, and fourth in the last five overall, took its tally to 32 points in 18 matches, two behind both Churchill Brothers and Inter Kashi.

Aizawl remained in 11th place with 16 points, one behind SC Bengaluru.

In Jaipur, former champion Gokulam Kerala FC stayed in the hunt with a resounding 3-0 victory over Rajasthan United.

Lesotho striker Thabiso Brown (45, 81) was the star of the show for the visitor as he netted a brace.

Athul Unnikrishnan (57) also contributed a goal to seal the triumph.

Climbing up

This victory has not only marked a return to winning ways for Gokulam but also propelled them into fourth.

With four matches remaining in the season, the Malabarians have 28 points from 18 games, six points behind leader Churchill Brothers.

Rajasthan United, on the other hand, have seen its earlier momentum, highlighted by a 10-match unbeaten streak, dissipate. The side is now in eighth place with 24 points from 18 games.

The results:

Real Kashmir 2 (Karim Samb 31, Paulo Cezar 77) bt Aizawl 1 (Lalrinzuala 58).

At Jaipur:

Rajasthan United 0 lost to Gokulam Kerala FC 3 (Brown 45, 81, Athul 57).

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Drawing level: Rice saves Arsenal's blushes with this equaliser. GETTY IMAGES

United dents Arsenal's hopes with a draw

Chelsea beats Leicester; Real edges Rayo while Getafe stuns Atletico; Inter survives Monza scare even as Napoli gets the better of Fiorentina

EURO LEAGUES

Agencies
MANCHESTER

Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice struck in the second half to cancel out Bruno Fernandes's free kick but Mikel Arteta's men could only muster a 1-1 draw with Manchester Unitd on Sunday in a big blow to its Premier League title chances.

Second-placed Arsenal trails leader Liverpool by 15 points but with a game in hand, while Manchester United is 14th on 34 points.

Earlier Chelsea boosted its bid to qualify for the Champions League as Marc Cucurella's rocket sealed a 1-0 win over Leicester, while Tottenham fought back from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Bournemouth.

Kylian Mbappe and Vinicius Junior were both on target for Real Madrid as it beat Rayo Vallecano 2-1 on Sunday to pull level with LaLiga leader Barcelona.

Real Madrid rose one point above Atletico Madrid after its surprise 2-1 defeat by Getafe earlier on, while Barca's match on Saturday was postponed because of the death of a club doctor.

Fresh life

Napoli breathed fresh life into its Serie A title hopes on Sunday with a 2-1 victory over Fiorentina that ended a five-match winless run. Antonio Conte's Napoli climbed back to within a point of leader Inter Milan, which came from two goals down to beat bottom side Monza 3-2 on Saturday.

The results:

Premier League: Chelsea 1 (Cucurella 60) bt Leicester 0; Tottenham 2 (Sarr 67, Son 84-pen) drew with Bournemouth 2 (Tavernier 42, Evanilson 65); Manchester United 1 (Fernandes 45+2) drew with Arsenal 1 (Rice 74).

Serie A: Verona 1 (Mosquera 80) lost to Bologna 2 (Odgaard 40, Cambiaghi 78); Napoli 2 (Lukaku 26, Raspadori 60) bt Fiorentina 1 (Gudmundsson 66).

LaLiga: Getafe 2 (Arambarri 88, 90+2) bt Atletico Madrid 1 (Sorloth 75-pen); Real Madrid 2 (Mbappe 30, Vinicius 34) bt Rayo Vallecano 1 (Diaz 45+2).

Bundesliga: Hoffenheim 1 (Tabakovic 34) drew with Heidenheim 1 (Zivzivadze 65); Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Batshuayi 13) lost to Union Berlin 2 (Querfeld 62, Jeong 78).

On Saturday: Serie A: Parma 2 (Pallegrino 60, 82) drew with Torino 2 (Elmas 19, Adams 72); Lecce 2 (Krstovic 7, 59) lost to AC Milan 3 (Gallo 68-og, Pulisic 73-pen, 81); Inter Milan 3 (Arnautovic 45+1, Calhanoglu 64, Kyriakopoulos 77-og) bt Monza 2 (Birindelli 32, Balde 44).

LaLiga: Celta Vigo 2 (Mingueza 26, Gonzalez 45+1) bt Leganes 1 (Rosier 19).

Chennaiyin ends campaign with a win

ISL

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennaiyin FC defeated Jamshedpur FC 5-2 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in an Indian Super League match here on Sunday.

CFC finished its league campaign with 27 points from 24 matches, and is placed eighth currently, whereas JFC has already qualified for the playoffs.

The visiting team found the breakthrough when Rei Tachikawa' scored in the 18th minute. The host hit back with a string of attacks which resulted in Daniel Chima Chukwu drilling the ball into the bottom left corner from the middle of the penalty area in the 25th minute.

Lukas Brambilla put the team 2-1 ahead in the 45th minute. After the interval, Irfan Yadwad put CFC 3-1 ahead.

Jamshedpur fought back and Mohammed Sanan reduced the margin with a powerful strike.

Irfan added to CFC's tally in the 90th minute mark, capitalising on a disoriented JFC defence as he received a pass from Wilmar Jordan Gil and lobbed it into the bottom left corner with thorough ease.

In added time, Chukwu put one into the right corner from close distance to cap a good night for CFC.

The result: Chennaiyin FC 5 (Chukwu 25, 90+6, Brambilla 45+3, Yadwad 57, 90) bt Jamshedpur FC 2 (Rei Tachikawa 18, Sanan 62).

On Top Down Under

Dominant run: On March 10, 40 years ago, reigning 50-over World champion India beat Pakistan by eight wickets in the final to claim the World Championship of Cricket crown at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The Sunil Gavaskar-led side put on an impressive display through the tournament by winning all its matches. Ravi Shastri, chosen 'Champion of Champions', was presented with an Audi car. GETTY IMAGES

Priyanshi claims the 53kg crown

WRESTLING

Sports Bureau

In the absence of Paris Olympian Antim Panghal, Madhya Pradesh wrestler Priyanshi Prajapat secured the women's 53kg crown on the concluding day of the Federation Cup at the Lovely Professional University (LPU), Jalandhar, on Sunday.

Antim withdrew from the event on medical grounds, according to a Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) source.

Haryana and Chandigarh wrestlers shared nine of the 10 Greco Roman titles.

The medallists:

Men: Greco Roman: 55kg: 1. Anil More (Har), 2. Nishan Chaudhary (UP), 3. Himanshu Singh (Raj), Sahil Kumar (Pun); **60kg:** 1. Sumit (Chd), 2. Chetan (Del), 3. Suraj (Har), Badal Singh (Pun).

63kg: 1. Gaurav (Har), 2. Adithya Machal (Utk), 3. Kunal (Chd), Mukul Chauhan (UP); **67kg:** 1. Sandeep (Har), 2. Saurabh (UP), 3. Ansh (Pun), Malkit Hooda (HP).

72kg: 1. Sahil (Chd), 2. Kuldeep Malik (Har), 3. Karanjit Singh (Pun), Swarup (Mah).

77kg: 1. Nishant Phogat (Chd), 2. Aman (Har), 3. Satender Kumar Yadav (Chd), Amrinder Singh (Pun).

82kg: 1. Ankit Boora (Chd), 2. Prince (Har), 3. Ajay (Del), Amarjit (J-K); **87kg:** 1. Sonu (Har), 2. Vinay (Mah), 3. Lucky (Del), Jatin Chauhan (UP).

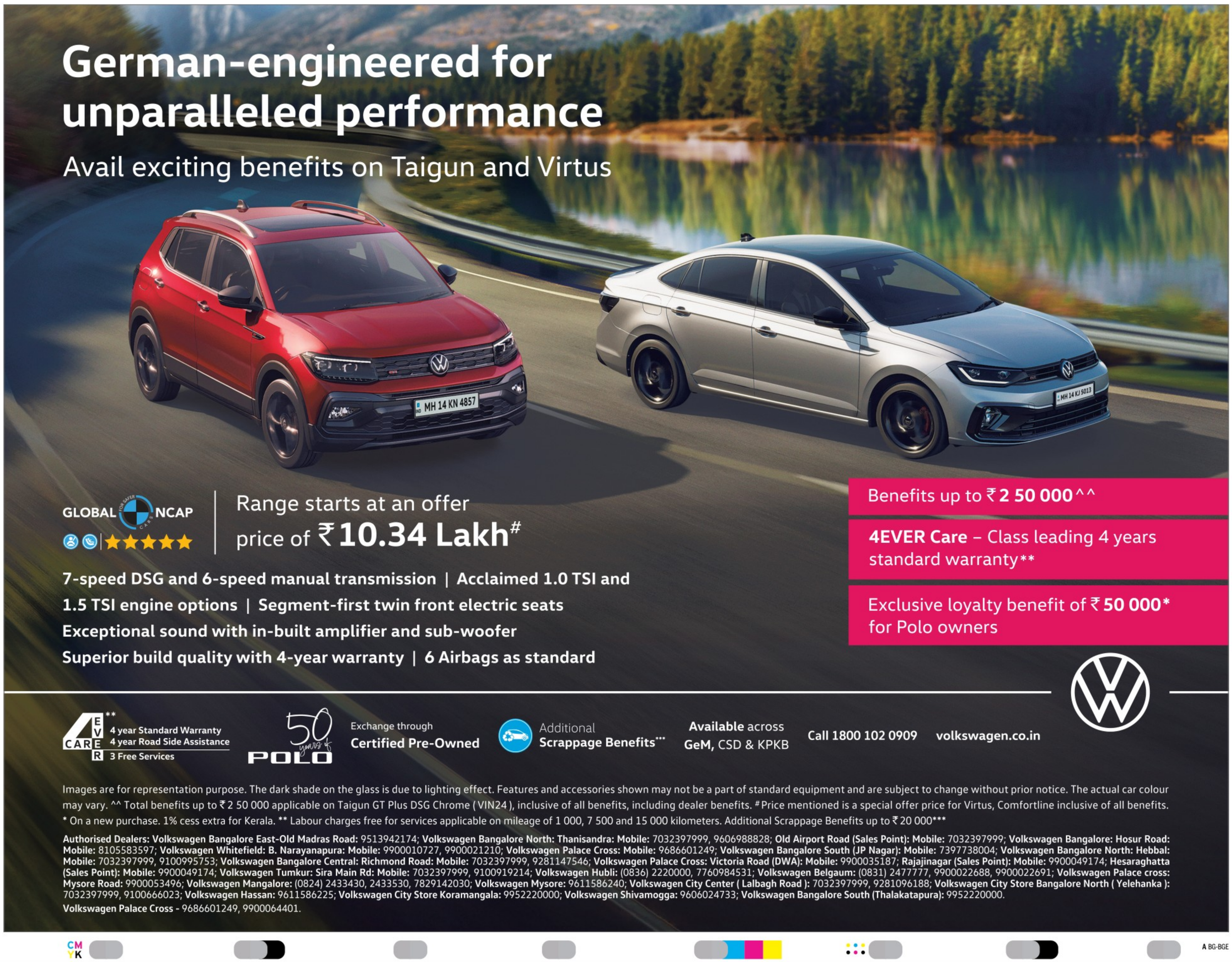
97kg: 1. Nithesh (Har), 2. Yadwinder Singh (Raj), 3. Abhimanu (Pun), Kuldeep Yadav (MP); **130kg:** 1. Viresh Kundu (UP), 2. Sanjeet (Har), 3. Sonu (Del), Ishq Ahmed (J-K).

Women: 53kg: 1. Priyanshi Prajapat (MP), 2. Hinaben Khalifa (Guj), 3. Gouri (Mah), 3. Julie (UP); **57kg:** 1. Neha Sharma (Del), 2. Pushpa (Har), 3. Deeksha (Raj), Shivani Sharma (MP).

65kg: 1. Srushti Bhosale (Mah), 2. Muskan (Har), 3. Tiyara Rana (MP), Komal Dalal (Del).

72kg: 1. Harshita (Har), 2. Vedika Sasne (Mah), 3. Khushi (Del), Sanofar Pathan (Guj).

76kg: 1. Deepika Nain (Chd), 2. Tannu (Del), 3. Ankita Vaishnav (Raj), Simran (Har).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